THE TIMES

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30p EVERY WEEKDAY

Dawn Primarolo gets Robinson job

Labour feud claims its third victim

BY JILL SHERMAN AND ROLAND WATSON

SENIOR members of the Cabinet urged their colleagues last night "to draw a line" under the most damaging episode of Tony Blair's period of government as the mortgage affair claimed its third big casualty.

Charlie Whelan, press secretary and chief spin doctor to Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, was forced to resign after continuing accusations that he was the culprit who leaked details of the £373,000 loan to Peter Mandelson from Geoffrey Robinson.

Mr Brown's consolation prize was the promotion of Dawn Primarolo, the former Bennite, to Paymaster General to fill the gap left by Mr Robinson. There had been speculation that the job would go to Geoff Hoon, a Blair loyalist, a move that Mr Brown would have resisted. Ms Primarolo, former Financial Secretary, is fiercely loyal to Mr Brown and, after five years, is the longest-serving member of his Treasury team.

The Chancellor also found a job for another ally, Michael Wills. Mr Wills, a wealthy independent television producer, has been appointed Trade and Industry Minister, but is taking no salary. However, the two appointments will do little to compensate the Chancellor for losing one of his most powerful supporters in government. Other moves were fairly neutral, with Stephen Timms moving up within the Social Security Department to replace John Denham as Pensions Minister.

Whelan: denied being the source of mortgage leak

Mr Whelan, 44, returned from a walking holiday in the Scottish Highlands to announce that he would be leaving the Treasury "as soon as the appropriate opportunity becomes available".

He strongly denied that he had leaked the details that led to the downfall of both ministers, but said that the level of media speculation about the affair made it impossible for him to carry on as Mr Brown's press secretary.

The Tories seized on the statement and demanded Mr Whelan's early departure. They argued that he could not remain and be privy to Budget secrets and urged Sir Richard Wilson, the Cabinet Secretary, to ensure that such access was stopped.

There were also questions about whether Mr Whelan would have to wait for three months or longer before being able to take up a a job in the private sector, where there could be a conflict of interest. But with Mr Blair away on holiday in the Seychelles, other senior Cabinet ministers tried to move the focus away from the spin doctors and ministerial rivalries that have dominated the headlines for more than two weeks.

David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, who is said to have been one of several ministers calling for Mr Whelan's removal, said it was time to draw a line under recent events. "The key political issue is not obsession with so-called 'spin doctors' or 'camps', but the Government's determination to keep the promises it made to the electorate," he said. "That is what the country and Labour party members expect of us and that is what we intend to do."

Downing Street also tried to mount a damage-limitation exercise, putting out a supportive statement about Mr Whelan, who has been widely accused in the past of briefing against Cabinet ministers.

But there was an almost audible sigh of relief from several members of the Government who have blamed Mr Whelan for creating unnecessary tensions between Mr Blair and Mr Brown over the past two years.

Mr Whelan decided to resign after several conversations with Mr Brown and Ed Balls, the Chancellor's economic adviser, but his fate was inevitable as soon as he was "fingered" by friends of Mr Mandelson on the night the home loan was disclosed in the press. Yesterday Mr Whelan said that it became impossible for him to stay in his job once he became the story.

"It is absurd that, on the day the euro starts trading, in the week the Monetary Policy Committee is meeting and when the Chancellor is working on a number of important initiatives for the new year, there is such attention focused on me." Mr Brown, who was said to have been desolate at his press secretary's resignation, refused to comment.



Primarolo, who has been appointed Paymaster General to replace Geoffrey Robinson

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Markets rally as the world shows faith in the euro

BY CHARLES BREMNER AND JILL SHERMAN

EUROPE'S fledgeling currency was celebrated by the financial markets in a day's trading that saw it rise against the dollar while continental stock markets enjoyed near-record surges.

European Union leaders greeted the smooth launch in the City, the Continent, Wall Street and Asia as a sign of confidence that the 11-nation euro is set to be a world currency alongside the dollar.

"This is an historic day," said Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission. "Let us for once congratulate ourselves without too much modesty. With the euro, Europe will be better equipped to control its destiny."

Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, hailed the euro's advent, saying: "I know that it will make Europe move forward and it will force us into new stages of integration." Jean-Luc Dehaene, the Belgian Prime Minister, said the successful first day was "a moment in the history of Europe that was considered impossible just ten years ago."

The single currency, which has a domestic economic base comparable to the dollar's, ended European trading at around 1.18 dollars, well above the 1.16 level which was held last week by the ecu, the EU basket currency that was its predecessor. The EU hopes the euro will not strengthen too much, given the damage it would inflict on euroland's exports. The European Central Bank (ECB) was rumoured at one stage yesterday to have intervened to support the dollar.

The City, which bore the brunt of the switchover as the world centre of currency trading, missed out on the "euphoria" which swept the Continent's stock markets. The FTSE 100-share index ended 0.05 per cent down while Milan toasted the currency with a record 6.4 per cent rise. Frankfurt shares rose 5.7 per cent, Madrid by 6.2 per cent and Paris by 5.2 per cent.

Britain, the most powerful of the four EU states outside the euro, imposed its will on the currency in an indirect fashion. The Commission bowed to the usage adopted by the Bank of England and decreed that the plural for euro in English would end in "s". The notes and coins, to be issued in three years, carry only the word "euro".

The United States welcomed the euro, signalling nervousness over pressure on the domestic economy as the dollar's hegemony as the international currency comes under challenge. Robert Rubin, the Treasury Secretary, said: "The euro re-emphasises how important it is that we focus on our own policies and continue to make the United States a place where people want to invest their capital by having sound policies here."

Tony Blair welcomed the first day of trading with a commitment to helping the single European currency to succeed. In an article in *The Wall Street Journal* the Prime Minister said: "If the euro works and the economic benefits are clear and unambiguous, we would recommend entry, with the British people having a final say in a referendum." The views were seen as his most pro-euro statements.

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Hospitals swamped by flu victims dialling 999

BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

PANICKING flu patients are precipitating a crisis in the overstretched health service by making 999 calls to demand ambulances to take them to hospital.

Although flu levels are not abnormally high, health trusts are reporting emergency units at full stretch dealing with an influx of patients brought in by ambulance.

Dr Doug Fleming, who heads the Royal College of General Practitioners' infectious diseases monitoring unit in Birmingham, said: "Hospitals are the wrong place for flu patients. There is no curative treatment for flu and there is no point in going to see your doctor let alone going to hospital unless you have a serious chest disease or are elderly and living on your own. Going to hospital puts other sick people at risk so it is an irresponsible and selfish thing to do."

Perhaps because GPs are only sending the most serious cases to hospital, patients are short-circuiting their doctors' waiting rooms and trying to get themselves admitted. This adds to the difficulties accident and emergency units are already facing in finding adequate staff and leads to many really ill people being left for hours on trollies.

Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, said that the number of flu cases was putting hospitals under pressure, especially in the North West and West Midlands.

Ambulances were having to queue for 15 minutes outside the Royal Liverpool Hospital to unload flu patients. At the Royal Hull Hospital there were 38 patients crammed into a ward for 28 on one day last month. London Ambulance Service had 115 flu calls on two days over the holidays.

Yesterday a woman with meningitis had to be airlifted nearly 200 miles from Birkenhead on Merseyside to Middlesbrough in the North East because there were no intensive care beds available. In Nottingham nurses are being offered 20 per cent extra to work on the admissions ward.

The pressures are coming because hospitals, already suffering from nursing shortages, are losing more staff through the illness and are finding it all but impossible to staff the extra beds. Although the Government has earmarked £159 million to deal with the winter crisis, hospitals cannot recruit the nurses they need.

Officially there is no flu epidemic until over 400 cases per 100,000 of the population are confirmed to have the disease in a given week. Flu levels this year are following a similar pattern to those in the winter of 1996/97, when they peaked at 230 cases per 100,000.

This year the level on December 15 was just 28 cases per 100,000 but by New Year's Eve it had almost quadrupled to 102 per 100,000. The next set of figures are expected to show a further rise, especially in the South.

Sydney and Beijing flu, the two strains of the disease prevalent this year, appear to be spreading down from Scotland, where doctors began to notice a sharp rise from mid-November. The latest regional figures - issued on Christmas Eve - show there were 113 cases per 100,000 in the North, 103 per 100,000 in the Midlands and only 41 per 100,000 in the South.



"Call an ambulance quickly — I'm about to sneeze"

Hospital alert, page 8

'Bombsite bird' threatens to stop work on the Dome

BY GLENN OWEN, TIMES DIARY

WORK on the Millennium Dome could be halted bythree pairs of black redstarts, one of Britain's rarest nesting birds. They have arrived at the construction site in Greenwich and it is against the law to disturb the "bombsite birds" once they begin nesting— due to happennext month.

Wildlife campaigners are demanding that Peter Mandelson's successor as Minister for the Dome — Lord Falconer of Thoroton — casts an eye over the Wildlife and Countryside Act. "They will have to stop working," says Ralph Gaines, head of conservation at the London Wildlife Trust. "The Act is clear that it would be illegal to disturb them. They will start nesting at the end of February, and the young do not leave until the end of July. We did stop some work in the area at the end of last summer when a pair were spotted."

Redstarts — relatives of the robin that gained their nickname after flourishing on derelict sites after the Second World War — are a threatened species. As few as 70 breeding pairs remain in the country, up to a third of which live in the capital and are known to be resident in nearby Deptford Creek. Three pairs are house-hunting in the construction site area.

The bird famously distracted Norman Lamont during the 1991 Maastricht negotiations. Then Chancellor, he told an alarmed Hans-Dietricht Genscher, at the time G ermany's Foreign Minister, that a redstart had just flown past. Herr Genscher was apparently reassured that at such a precarious moment for Europe, Mr Lamont took such a characteristically British delight in nature.

Mike Everett, from the RSPB, has comforting words for the Dome's organisers: "The Act protects the bird, but it does allow them to be disturbed as 'the incidental result of a lawful action that could not have been avoided', so it depends on compromise."

The New Millennium Experience Company, which birders claim has banned them from the site, said: "We are aware that these birds have nested in the area and will take their rarity into account when deciding how to deal with them if they do so on the site this year."

Their arrival comes at a bad time for the £758 million Dome. The roof is on, but the work schedule is tight. It is, however, a home indeed for redstarts — they love "untidy, scrappy sites".



Black redstart: in danger

New rules 'threaten care home closures'

Alexandra Frean on plans to ensure bigger rooms and better facilities

HUNDREDS of residential care homes for the elderly could be forced to close if national standards on room size and bathroom facilities are introduced.

In a survey of 400 independent care homes, 64 per cent of respondents said that they would be forced to close if the proposed standards, drawn up by the Centre for Policy on Ageing, became law.

Under the proposals, all single rooms must have no less than 10 sq m of useable space, but if a residential home changes hands, all single rooms must be extended to include an extra 2 sq m. Shared rooms will have to have 16 sq m of useable space. All newly registered homes will have to have en suite washing and toilet facilities.

Geoff Hodgson, editor of *Caring Times* magazine, which conducted the survey, said that smaller privately owned homes would be affected most by the changes. Owners of such homes often planned to sell them on retirement and live off the proceeds but the imposition of the new standards would in many cases make it impossible to sell the homes as on-going business concerns as their rooms would be considered too small to meet the minimum requirements.

"Thousands of elderly could find themselves without beds in the short term if homes are forced to close. Thousands of jobs may be lost." Mr Hodgson said.

The survey follows the resignation last month of Sheila Scott, chief executive of the National Care Homes Association, from the advisory board of the Centre for Policy on Ageing in protest at the proposed standards, which she called "an unprecedented attack on the private sector".

The proposed standards are due to be discussed by John Hutton, the Health Minister, and the Centre for Policy on Ageing at a meeting later this month.

Viagra sales fail to take off in Ireland

IRISH men are either very virile or exceptionally shy, (Audrey Magee writes). Initial reports show that demand for Viagra, the anti-impotence drug, is far lower than expected in the country where it is made.

The drug became available to the Irish public at the end of September. But pharmacies across the country report few if any sales. O'Connells, one of Ireland's largest chain of retail pharmacies, has issued fewer than 100 prescriptions in Dublin in the past three months. "We are very surprised. We thought the demand would be far stronger. But it appears not," said a spokeswoman.

Pfizer, the company that makes the drug in Ringaskiddy, Co Cork, declined yesterday to disclose their Irish sales figures but insisted that they were in line with expectations.

The Government had originally predicted that 18,000 Irishmen would want the drug, costing the exchequer around £20 million a year.



Tara Palmer-Tomkinson showing off her latest skiwear on the slopes at Klosters

William misses royal ski holiday

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THE Prince of Wales began his annual skiing holiday at Klosters in the Swiss Alps yesterday, but with a depleted family party.

He was accompanied by his younger son, Prince Harry, but Prince William had elected to stay at home and is understood to be spending time with friends in Scotland. The 16-year-old Prince is a less enthusiastic skier than his father and younger brother, and dislikes the media attention the royal party inevitably attracts.

Zara Phillips, daughter of the Princess Royal, was to have been in the party but had to postpone her departure because of flu. She hopes to be well enough to join her uncle and cousin later.

The princes, who flew into Zurich on Sunday on a BAe 146 aircraft of the Royal Squadron, have been joined by their regular companion, Tiggy Legge-Bourke, the young princes' former nanny, and by Tara Palmer-Tomkinson, who appeared on the slopes yesterday to show off her designer ski wear to photographers. It included her trademark white "Tara" hat and a one-piece navy blue ski suit and jacket by designer Sam de Taran.

Miss Palmer-Tomkinson, whose parents are long-time skiing companions of the Prince and whose mother narrowly escaped death in the Klosters avalanche that killed one of the Prince's aides, also disclosed that she was wearing designer underwear by Agent Provocateur and several layers of cashmere cardigans.

Today the princes will, as in previous years, pose briefly on the slopes for an arranged photocall in the hope that cameramen will then leave them alone until they return to Britain on Sunday.

But media attention has already intruded on their holiday. A Swiss news magazine has put up a huge poster near the ski runs showing the Prince of Wales, apparently naked, peering over the top of a screen. The German caption translates as: "Not even the Prince of Wales can hide any secrets from us."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Blair off to Kuwait and South Africa

The Prime Minister is to visit Kuwait to meet the RAF crews who played a crucial part in the bombing raids on Iraq two weeks ago. Next Saturday Tony Blair, on his way back from an official visit to South Africa, will stop off at the Ali Al Salem air base to meet the personnel who flew the 12 *Tornado* GR1 jets during Operation Desert Fox.

The Prime Minister is also expected to meet leading Kuwaiti diplomats to try to persuade them to allow the Tornado jets to operate as bombers again. Mr Blair will be collected tomorrow morning from the Seychelles, where he has been holidaying with his wife and family, before flying to Pretoria for the start of his first visit to South Africa since he became Prime Minister.

Prison fires injure 16

Sixteen prison officers were injured by fires started by inmates at Maghaberry prison in Northern Ireland. They suffered smoke inhalation after prisoners lit four fires on Sunday and two on New Year's Eve. Another officer was treated for minor burns after tea was thrown over him. The prisoners started the fires to protest at being locked in cells for longer than usual. A Prison Service spokesman said that the lock-ups were necessary because of staff shortages.

Stun gun man jailed

A man who tried to sell stun guns used by American police was jailed for six months. The hand-held guns, which are capable of producing 100,000 volts and have led to a number of deaths, are legally used for self-defence in America. However, a judge at Warwick Crown Court rejected a suggestion by Peter Hawketts, 32, who had imported 100 stun guns worth £1,200, that he was unaware they were illegal in Britain. He ordered them in Florida to sell to women for self-defence.

Spacecraft on course

A $138 million spacecraft lost by mission controllers last month was back on course for its historic rendezvous with an asteroid. On Sunday the Near Earth Asteroid Rendezvous satellite's rocket engines were successfully fired, boosting its speed by more than 2,000mph to 43,000mph. The craft, more than 200 million miles from Earth, is now chasing the asteroid, named Eros, and should catch up with it in just over a year.

Stalker barred again

The first man to be convicted of stalking is back in prison for harassing the same woman while on parole. Anthony Burstow, 39, of Slough, Berkshire, was jailed for 16 weeks for pestering Tracey Morgan, 30, after serving 15 months of a three-year sentence. Magistrates at Bracknell also served a restraining order banning Burstow from entering Berkshire and prohibiting him from having any contact with Ms Morgan, her family or friends, indefinitely.

Lawyer in the drink

A solicitor specialising in alcohol-related cases is advertising his service on beer mats in pubs. Andy Lyall, from Dundee, has angered the Law Society of Scotland which claims that his promotional ploy is "not in accordance with the dignity of the profession". Mr Lyall, 52, said it was "eminently sensible" because many of his clients get into trouble because of drink. The beer mats bear his photograph, phone number and address with the words "Defence Lawyer".

£5 coin honours Princess

BY MICHAEL HARVEY

SIXTEEN months after her death, the Princess of Wales has taken her place on a coin of the realm.

The new £5 commemorative coin, which is to be unveiled by the Royal Mint today, is the first of four official memorials to the Princess. It features an elegant portrait in profile by the distinguished sculptor David Cornell, and on the reverse is a portrait of the Queen.

Widely seen as the most simple and tasteful of the memorial schemes, the coin is described as a "Crown". More than 10 million, in various editions, are expected to be sold worldwide. Millions of pounds in profits will be used to fund the other official memorial projects, such as children's nursing teams, community awards for schoolchildren and the scaled-down memorial gardens near Kensington Palace.

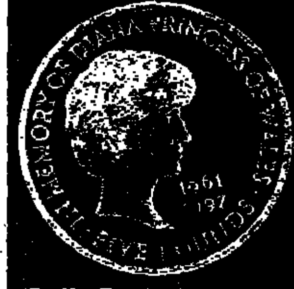
The cupro-nickel alloy version of the coin is available from today from large post offices in a presentation folder for £9.95. The presentation packaging features previous tributes to the Princess from the Queen and Earl Spencer, as well as a poem that was read by her sister, Lady Jane Fellowes, at the Princess's funeral.

Gold and silver versions of the coins priced at £595 and £32.50 will be available from April. The £5 legal tender version will be issued on July 1, the anniversary of the Princess's birthday.

The Royal Mint will produce as many coins as are needed to meet public demand. The mint expects that most people will buy the coin as a keepsake, and only a few are expected to go into general circulation.

The coin's design was approved by the Royal Mint Advisory Committee, chaired by the Duke of Edinburgh. It was also passed by the government body in charge of official memorials to the Princess, the Diana Memorial Committee, which is chaired by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor.

Representatives of the royal household and the Princess's sister, Lady Sarah McCorquodale, also sit on the committee.



The £5 coin issued today

Mr Brown said yesterday: "The Diana Memorial Committee received over 10,000 suggestions from people from all walks of life.

"I know that many people want a fitting and lasting reminder of Diana, Princess of Wales. I am sure that this official commemorative coin will be treasured by the people of Great Britain."

The amount of profit to be donated to memorial projects will be at least £75 per gold coin, £5 per silver coin and £3 per base-metal version.

Mr Cornell, 63, a former engraver at the Royal Mint, is a fellow of the Royal Society of British Sculptors. His portrait of the Princess was chosen because it was the most elegant and simple of several designs submitted.

Today's release is not the first time that the Princess has featured in the "Crown" series of coins, which is now issued annually by the Royal Mint.

She had previously appeared with the Prince of Wales in 1981 in a coin to commemorate their wedding. That coin sold nearly 9 million copies, but at the then lower face value price of 25p, the equivalent of five shillings.

The obverse side of the latest £5 coin displays the portrait of the Queen which appears on all UK coins minted from January 1998. It was designed by the sculptor Ian Rank Broadley.

When the idea of a commemorative coin was first mooted, friends of the Princess noted she would have laughed at the irony of seeing herself sharing a coin with her former mother-in-law.

Last night the reality was deemed a fitting tribute by her brother Earl Spencer.

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Straw joins Blair in holiday controversy

BY VICTORIA FLETCHER AND MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE Home Secretary is allowing his daughter to miss school for a family holiday, it emerged last night as the Prime Minister came under further criticism for failing to deliver his children for the start of term.

Jack Straw's daughter did not arrive for the first day of term yesterday because she was still on holiday abroad with her parents, according to fellow sixth-formers at her school in Central London. The whereabouts of the Straw family could not be officially confirmed for security reasons.

At the weekend the Prime Minister was accused of undermining David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, who recently gave warning that pupils should not miss school for holidays in term-time. Mr Blair's sons are expected to start term 24 hours late at the London Oratory today, while their sister will be similarly late arriving at her primary school in Highbury.

Mrs Blair wrote to the respective head teachers before the family set off for their holiday in the Seychelles to explain that the children would miss the start of term today.

David Hart, leader of the National Association of Head Teachers, said that Downing Street's response missed the point. "It is not up to parents merely to tell a school that they will be missing a day of school," he said. "They have to ask. If they don't get permission from the head teacher, but still keep their child away, that is unauthorised absence."

David Willetts, the Shadow Education Secretary, called for an explanation. "What is the truth? If permission for the boys' absence from school this week was not sought by Mrs Blair, as the headmaster, Mr McIntosh, claims, this raises very serious questions about the express information issued by the Downing Street spin-machine." John McIntosh, head of the London Oratory, was not available for comment on when the Blairs told him about their holiday arrangements — or whether he had approved the children's absence.

A Downing Street spokesman warned: "The children have a right to privacy and there is a serious danger here of intrusion. The specifics of the communication should be a matter between the family and the schools."

20% rise in prison suicides

BY RICHARD FORD HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE number of prisoners who killed themselves in jails in England and Wales last year rose by more than a fifth to 83. The increase came as the total prison population rose by about 7 per cent to an average of 65,300.

Richard Tilt, the retiring Director-General of the Prison Service, said the suicide increase was partially caused by the growing numbers in jail. He added: "Not all suicides are preventable and there are no simple solutions, but it is clear that we have a long way to go in tackling a problem which is mirrored in outside society." In 1997, the suicide total at the 135 jails was 68.

The Howard League for Penal Reform said that nine of the dead were under 18.

Kidnap gang planned to bomb British targets

Officials were not told of arrests, reports **Daniel McGrory**. Photographs: **Peter Nicholls**

THE leader of the gang that kidnapped 16 Western tourists in Yemen had been planning to bomb British targets in Aden five days earlier.

Abu Hassan wanted to exchange the hostages for three bombers police arrested as they were about to launch simultaneous attacks at five locations, including the British Consulate. The three, who were using fake British passports, also planned to blow up the Anglican church and the Aden Hotel, where the surviving hostages were taken.

Scotland Yard detectives who arrived in Aden last night hope to discover more about the bombing operation, and the gun battle in which four hostages died, when they are allowed to question Hassan, who is being held in chains in a top security prison.

Yemeni security chiefs say the gaunt, bearded 28-year-old was the leader of the three bombers, who were seized as they were priming devices in their room at the cheap, backstreet Al Wafa hotel. The three men, who included a 27-year-old Iranian, claimed to have arrived in Aden from London.

The list of targets found in room 111 included a clinic next door to Christ Church and the Royal Hotel, which is used by 35 American soldiers training Yemeni forces in mine clearance. In the cluttered bomb factory, police also discovered automatic weapons, grenades and black hoods with eye slits.

General Mohammed Saleh Turaik, head of security for the Aden area, said yesterday: "The men we arrested told us the targets Abu Hassan chose for bombing were very big. Many people would have been killed if he had succeeded. There would have been much more blood than in the kidnapping." He said the three did not know of the kidnap plot.



The brothers arrested with Abu Hassan, Ahmed, left, and Saad Mohammed Ali Atif

British diplomats in the region are furious that the Yemeni authorities did not tell them of the bomb plot, or the arrests. They would have warned tour groups to stay away from areas in the south east where Islamic groups are known to have camps. They also want to know why military escorts were withdrawn from tour convoys driving through the Shabwa and Abyan provinces, where Abu Hassan comes from and where the hostages were ambushed.

Diplomatic sources in Whitehall say Yemen's Interior Minister, Hussein Mohammed Arab, refused to meet Vic Henderson, the British Ambassador, until after the bungled raid because he knew that Britain was against the use of force. Britain had wanted to offer the use of the SAS who have a permanent desert base across the border in Oman, a short helicopter flight from where the hostages were being held on a volcanic plateau.

Last night, Hassan was being held at Zinjubar, 115 miles from where the hostages were kidnapped on December 28. There is room for little more than a thin mattress and a blanket in his 6ft square, windowless cell.

In a series of photographs, acquired for *The Times* with the help of Yemeni security chiefs, Hassan is seen holding the chains that bind his ankles. His captors say Hassan, who is unmarried, has shown no remorse and claim his only regret "was that he did not kill all his hostages".

Hassan, whose real name is Zain al-Abdin Abu Bakar al-Mehdar, faces execution by a shot in the back of the neck after a trial that General Turaik said could be over in 48 hours. The Scotland Yard detectives, who are working with ten FBI investigators, are anxious to interview Hassan, and two brothers who were captured with him, before such swift retribution can be carried out. They hope to discover who planned and funded his Al-Jihad group.

"There is no doubt there is a foreign influence to all this. There could be a connection with Osama bin Laden, or someone else," General Turaik said, referring to the Saudi billionaire who is wanted for bombing American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania last year. Bin Laden has family links with Yemen, and in the past six months some of his fighters, forced out of Afghanistan and Sudan, have moved there.

"The bombers we caught could be students of bin Laden, but they are connected to Hassan. They were trained outside Yemen. Abu Hassan is a link to a bigger organisation," the general added.

Two of the bombers arrived at Al Wafa hotel in Aden's Crater market district on December 9, paying cash for their room and saying they had had come from London. They showed British passports, which hotel staff remember were the old fashioned type with hard blue covers: however, this was the first time they had been used.

Malek Mohsen Fadel, who is said by security sources to be a Yemeni, and Hamza Ali Said, a Pakistani, remained in Room 111 on the second floor for ten days until they were joined by an Iranian, Ahmed Sarmad, who was also travelling on a blue-covered, fake, British passport.

The three left the hotel the following day but checked back in on December 23 at 2.30am, in the same room. Two hours later, police arrived and showed hotel staff a photograph of the Iranian, whom they called Mohsen Galen. Staff led the armed officers to the room, where they are said to have found the men assembling bombs using plastic explosive stuffed into steel pipes.

One of the hotel employees, who helped police to search the room, said they found grenades hidden behind curtains, a small saw, a metal file, electrical wire, detonators, timers and the black hoods. There were leaflets about Islamic fundamentalist groups, including Hamas, and eight video cassettes. Police did not inform any of the targets on the bombers' list about their find.

Roger Bruggink, an Anglican priest at Christ Church in the Tawahi port area, said: "We live with the awareness of the dangers and recognise there are different people with different ideas who will use violence to get their way." Last year, a bomb was found in the church compound, which includes the Ras Morbat clinic, built in 1996. Security was stepped up around the 19th century church and the already well fortified Consulate only after the kidnappings.

Yemeni officials believe that the intended spate of bombings on the five targets were revenge for Britain's part in the December air raids on Iraq. The 12 surviving hostages, now back in Britain, will be asked to identify Hassan from photographs that show him looking bedraggled in the same red and orange "futa" and grey and white T-shirt he wore during the kidnap.

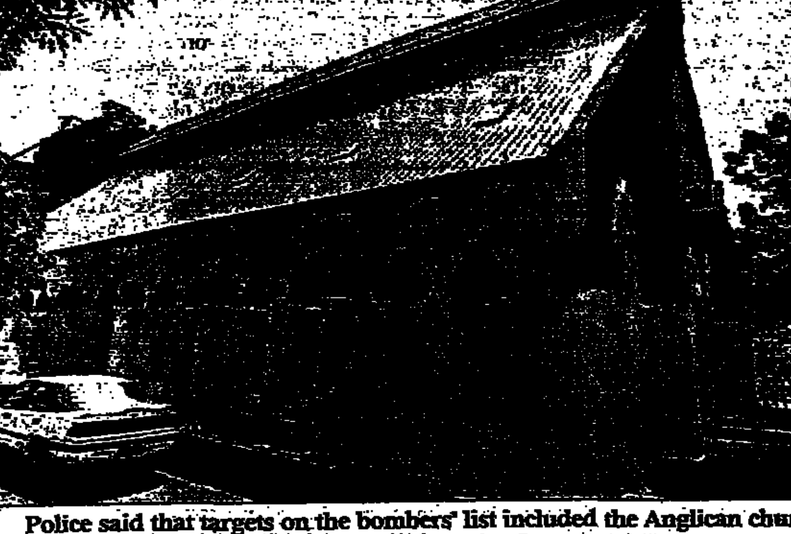


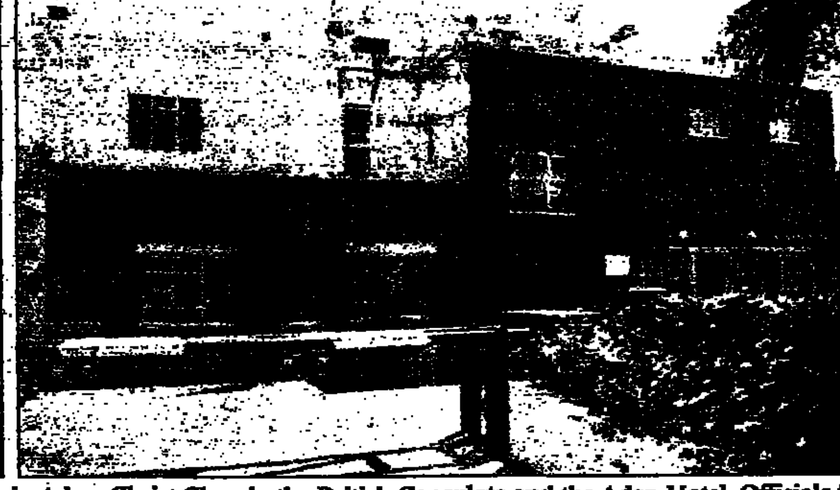
Abu Hassan, being held in chains, led the bomb plot and kidnap gangs, officials say

The brothers held in the same prison as Hassan, two more of the kidnap gang, also face the death penalty. Ahmed Mohammed Ali Atif and his younger brother, Saad Mohammed Ali Atif, are believed to come from the same area as Hassan, Upper Aulaqi in Shabwa.

Hassan's Al-Jihad group are known to have funded their operations in part by armed robberies. They include an attack on a security van carrying nine million riyals (£50,000) in teachers' salaries.

☐ Yemen said yesterday it was abandoning its attempt to join the Commonwealth after the diplomatic row with Britain over the hostage killings.







Police said that targets on the bombers' list included the Anglican church in Aden, Christ Church, the British Consulate and the Aden Hotel. Officials failed to warn any of the targets after the would-be bombers were arrested

Workers offered jam tomorrow

By Susie Steiner

THE celebrated jam-maker to the Queen, Wilkin & Sons, is transferring control of the company to staff in a philanthropic move of which its founding father would have been proud.

The firm has supplied the Royal Household since the turn of the century from its renowned Tiptree fruit bushes. It is now preparing to give the workers — from fruit sorters to label stickers — the casting vote in major company decisions. The move is designed to protect the firm from predatory buyers after the last family member retires. The chairman, Peter Wilkin, 58, has no heirs; when he leaves, 110 years of family involvement will come to an end.

"There are no family members coming along, so when I shuffle off the scene what I wanted to avoid was someone snapping up the company, stripping the assets and throwing everything else away," Mr Wilkin said yesterday. "We have had a lot of approaches from people to buy the firm but we are not interested in selling. The company name is very valuable and we have a very good reputation, and I want the company to continue in the same vein.

"The company has had very strong employee involvement since it started. My great-grandfather was a staunch Non-Conformist and very much into worker participation."

Arthur Wilkin established the firm in the Essex village of Tiptree in 1885. An altruistic manager, he set up a provident fund to help local people who fell on hard times and was one of the first employers to provide pensions. Tiptree still has 70 company homes, where present or former staff live at reduced rents.

The firm won the Royal Warrant of Approval in 1911, and the jam has been spread on Buckingham Palace toast ever since.

Suicide girl was afraid of bullies

By Russell Jenkins

MARIE BENTHAM, the eight-year-old girl found hanged on Saturday, was frightened by school bullies, her family has revealed.

Karen Bentham, the girl's aunt, said: "Marie said she had been bullied at school and she did not want to go back. Her mum told her not to be so silly and Marie stormed off to bed. When she went to check on her later, she found her with a skipping rope around her neck.

"She pulled it off and rang for an ambulance. The paramedics arrived and did their best, but Marie was pronounced dead at the hospital."

Both Marie and her younger sister, Gemma, were pupils at Moorfield Primary School, near their home in Irlam, Manchester. It is understood that Marie's mother, Debbie Bentham, did not raise the issue of school bullying when she spoke to police about her daughter's death. Greater Manchester Police said that any allegations regarding bullying would be considered as part of their investigation.

John Walsh, Marie's head teacher, described her death as a "terrible tragedy" and said that prayers were said for her during morning assembly.

Mark Carriline, Salford City Council's director of education and leisure, said in a statement: "There have been two instances in the last term when Marie's family raised concerns with the school about bullying. These were concerns the school took very seriously indeed and dealt with promptly and appropriately.

"In each case the circumstances were fully investigated and the local authority policy was followed to the letter. Neither of those instances involved anything out of the ordinary. They reflected the type of concerns that many parents raise during the course of the school year."

Cocker pulps plans for Disco 2000

By Alex O'Connell

JARVIS COCKER is clamping down on plans to use *Disco 2000* as the soundtrack to the millennium.

The lead singer of Pulp has asked his record company, Island Records, to send notice to television producers who might have been planning to use the song.

Phill Savidge, of Savage & Best, the PR company that represents the band, said: "They don't want it to be used for various TV programmes about the millennium — they want to keep it a bit special.

"It's not that they're being precious. They had stopped playing it on tour but now they have started performing it again at a few shows."

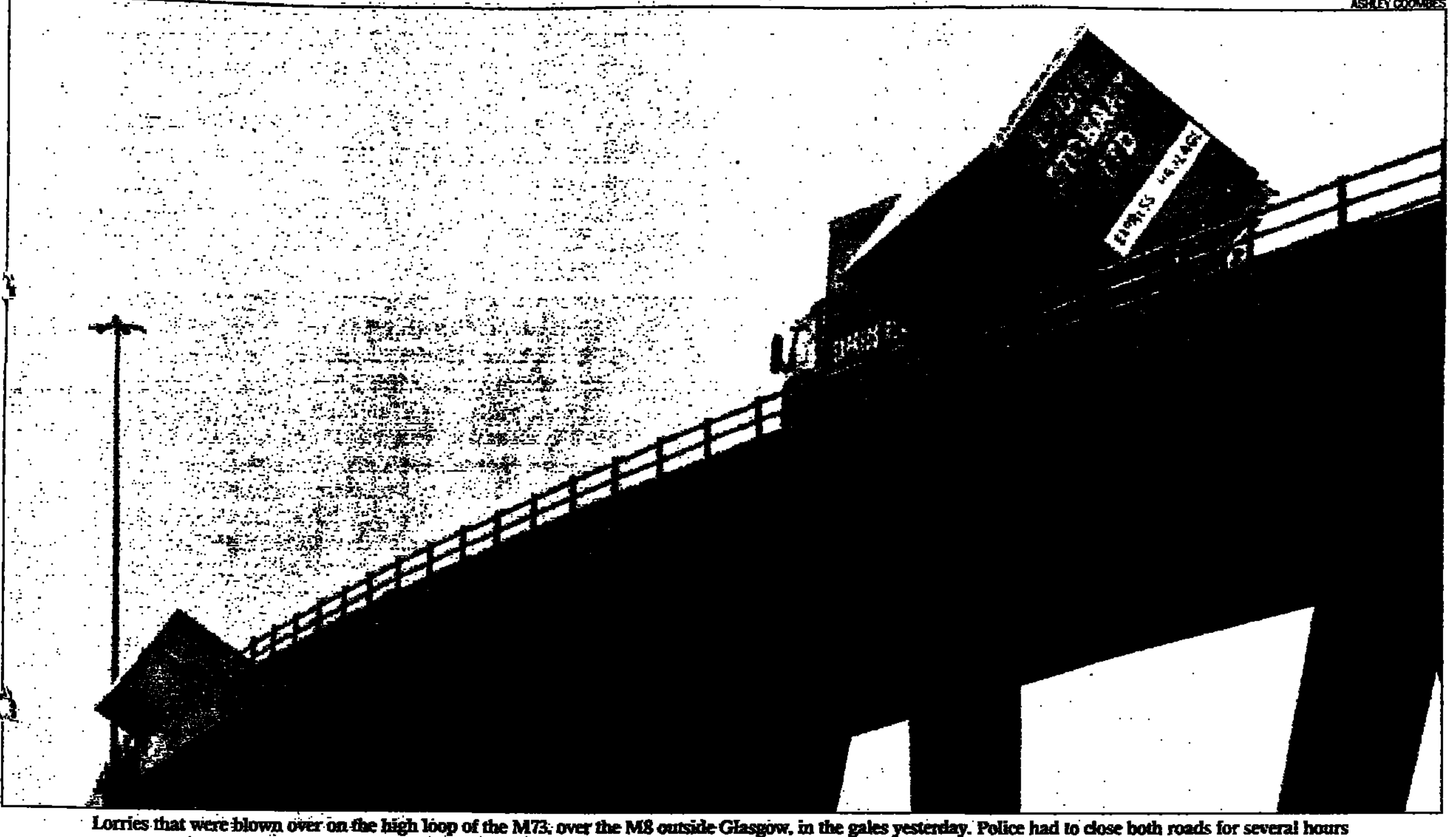
The song's chorus, "Let's all meet up in the year 2000/won't it be strange when we're all fully grown?", makes it a natural millennium soundtrack.

Mr Savidge, who acknowledged that bands could earn about £50,000 for the use of their music in a television advertisement, said: "Pulp are obviously making the decision that it will be more lucrative this way. The band might want to stop it being sold to TV now so that they can become multi-millionaires in the future." He added that the single was now hard to obtain, but he did not rule out the possibility of the band repackaging and re-releasing it this year.

A spokesman for Channel 4 said: "It is certainly too early to tell if the track is going to be used. Any millennium programmes would still be in production."

Kathryn Kelly, BBC spokesperson for millennium programming, said that it would not matter if Cocker prevented use of the song. "It doesn't really make any difference to us. There is a lot of other music that would be relevant."

وكذا من الأصل



ASHLEY COOMBES

Lorries that were blown over on the high loop of the M73, over the M8 outside Glasgow, in the gales yesterday. Police had to close both roads for several hours

Power lines hit and roads shut in 80mph gales

BY TIM JONES AND SHIRLEY ENGLISH

GALES gusting at more than 80mph battered Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic yesterday, *bringing down power lines.*

The storm led to the death of a 74-year-old man, who drowned when he was blown into the River Almond at Cramond, outside Edinburgh.

The west coast of Scotland bore the brunt of the storm. More than 13,000 homes were without electricity as falling trees, weakened by the Boxing Day storms, brought down lines in Dumfriesshire, Kintyre and Perthshire. Engineers worked to reconnect customers, but in some areas the southwesterly winds made work on overhead lines dangerous and repairs were suspended. ScottishPower and Hydro Electric said that they hoped to have most customers reconnected by today.

The A78 between Largs and Skelmorlie was closed by flooding caused by high tides in the Clyde. An alternative route was closed because of fallen trees. The Forth and Tay road bridges were closed to high-sided vehicles and caravans for most of the day. Fallen *trees and flying debris forced* the closure of minor roads.

The M8 on the edge of Glasgow was closed for several hours when two lorries were blown over and smashed into crash barriers on the overhead A73 looproad at Baillieston Interchange. Flights out of Glasgow and Edinburgh airports were cancelled. East-coast trains were delayed as wires were brought down, and ferry services to Northern Ireland and the Scottish islands were cancelled.

The gales, which over the weekend claimed at least two lives, also caused chaos in Northern Ireland where more than 2,000 people were last night still without electricity.

In the Irish Republic, rescuers resumed a search for a couple feared swept out to sea from cliffs in west Cork.

Forecast, page 22

Head 'got away with abusing children'

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

A HEADMASTER who was yesterday accused of sexually abusing children had survived more than a decade of police and social services inquiries before action was taken to bar him from teaching.

Robin Lindsay, the headmaster and proprietor of Sherborne Preparatory School in Dorset for 26 years, was forced to resign last May after he was served with a notice of complaint by the Department for Education and Employment.

But an independent schools tribunal was told yesterday that he had first been warned by police about "inappropriate behaviour" 12 years earlier. Parents, however, repeatedly rallied to his support, attributing his behaviour to eccentricity.

A succession of reports by police and social services criticised Mr Lindsay's habit of supervising the boys' and girls' showers at the school, which takes children aged between six and 13. He was said to have showered with boys and to have weighed members of the rugby team naked, forbidding them to cover their genitals.

David Elvin, for the DfEE, said Mr Lindsay was accused of assaults over several years, fitting the pattern of a persistent child abuser. The most serious involved an allegation of buggery of an eight-year-old boy, although Mr Elvin acknowledged that this evidence should be treated "with caution" since the boy was subsequently expelled for trying to burn down a building.

Mr Lindsay, 70, triggered the tribunal by appealing against the notice of complaint in order to prevent the summary closure of the school, which has since been taken over by an independent trust. He was unable to challenge the evidence after withdrawing his appeal to spare the school publicity, but after the hearing yesterday he denied the allegation of buggery or any sexual impropriety.

The first inquiry into Mr Lindsay's stewardship took place in 1985. Eight years later he was interviewed by police for more than three hours. But it was not until Dorset social services produced a "horrendous" report on the school in 1997, recommending a notice of complaint, that he was forced to resign.

Mr Elvin said: "There is clear and unequivocal evidence which does show that Lindsay has engaged in conduct of a serious sexual nature, by definition abusive of children and a gross violation of the principles of promoting the welfare of children."

Judge Wroath, chairing the three-strong panel, said he would announce the tribunal's decision on January 25.

Mr Lindsay told *The Times* after the hearing that he denied all allegations of sexual impropriety and called for the tribunal procedures to be reviewed because he had been given no opportunity to challenge evidence. "Some of the things I am accused of were completely acceptable in earlier times."

Tony Helliar, a Yeovil solicitor who had children at the school at the time of the alleged buggery in 1984, said the allegation had no credence. The former pupil's description of Mr Lindsay's study, where the incident was said to have taken place, was completely inaccurate and the supposed train of events implausible.



Lindsay: was forced to resign last May

Police sack cruel dog handlers

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

TWO Essex policemen convicted of cruelty to police dogs at a force training centre were dismissed by their chief constable yesterday.

Sgt Andrew White, 38, had been convicted at Chelmsford Crown Court of seven offences under the Protection of Animals Act 1911 and PC Kenneth Boorman, 45, was found guilty of six charges. Each was sentenced to four months in prison. They were dismissed after a discipline hearing.

At their three-week trial in November the jury heard details of the way German shepherd dogs were regularly strung up by their leads and kicked and punched as part of the training.

At the end of the trial Sergeant Stephen Hopkins, 42, was also convicted of one offence and given 200 hours' community service. Yesterday, David Stephens, Chief Constable of Essex, ruled that he could keep his job but he will be reprimanded and banned from working with dogs.

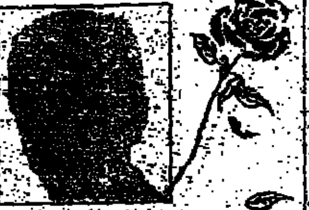
Inspector Graham Curtis, head of the dog section, who was cleared at the trial, will be transferred to other duties.


December 21: "I have done nothing wrong. Anyone who throws mud at me will find it will not stick" Peter Mandelson, defending Geoffrey Robinson's the loan


December 22: "Why should he tell lies?" Mrs Mary Mandelson


December 23: "It is no exaggeration to say that without your support and advice we would never have built New Labour" Tony Blair in reply to Mandelson's resignation letter


December 24: "He is an extremely gifted politican and I have no doubt that... his career will be far from over; we shall see him again" Paddy Ashdown, on Mandelson


December 25: "Mandelson is not coming back, not in this century, and not in the next" senior Cabinet minister


December 26: "Ironically... he had beome the Dr Guillotine of the revolution. The devices he invented have cut short his ministerial career" Lord Hattersley on Mandelson


December 27: "He has been a bloody fool, but he is not corrupt... he was too colourful, too exotic and clever for his own good" Robert Harris, author and friend of Mandelson


December 28: "If you're asking me is Peter is a friend, yes, he certainly is. He's flown on the plane but it was not business, only as a friend" Linda Wachner, US lingerie millionairess

RICHARD POHLE

Brown gave Whelan time to plot exit

BY ROLAND WATSON AND JILL SHERMAN

Spin doctor was victim of rivalry between Labour factions that many believed he instigated

THE great irony about Charlie Whelan's departure is that it saw him following the advice of his arch-enemy, Peter Mandelson: "*My fear is that* drift is harming you," wrote the former Trade Secretary. "You need to implement a strategy to exit with enhanced position, strength and respect."

The words were not offered *to* Mr Whelan, but to his boss Gordon Brown nearly five years ago as Westminster waited to see whether he would run to succeed the late John *Smith as Labour leader. They* form part of the memo that Mr Brown's camp has ever *since* labelled "the great betrayal", claiming that Mr Mandelson's offer of support was in stark contrast to his campaigning for Tony Blair.

But Mr Mandelson's "strategy to exit" for Mr Brown could just as well apply to Mr Whe*lan's announcement* yesterday that he would be stepping down "at the appropriate time". His resignation followed a fortnight of mounting pressure *which has seen the* 44-year-old former communist accused of being — and deny*ing that he was* — the catalyst for the pre-Christmas resignations of Mr Mandelson and Geoffrey Robinson, the former Paymaster General.

He finally made up his mind to quit on Sunday during the train journey south *from* his holiday hideaway in the Highlands.

Mr Whelan, blamed by his Labour critics for putting his loyalty to Mr Brown above that for the Blair Government as a whole, realised that he would do his patron more *harm than* good by *staying.* He had spoken to the Chancellor on the Saturday evening to tell him so, and that he had all but resolved to go.

After arriving at *King's* Cross station on Sunday evening and travelling across *the capital to his home in* Peckham, southeast London, he again called the Chancellor and told him that he was reconciled to resigning. He sat down at his kitchen table to draft his resignation statement and arranged to meet *Alastair Campbell, the Prime* Minister's spokesman, the next morning to arrange the logistics of the announcement.

The formalities of yesterday, however, had been the result of weeks, if not months, of behind-the-scenes discussions between *Mr Whelan and his* boss, not to say the subject of speculation among ministers and gossip on the Westminster grapevine. Even before the disclosure of *Mr Mandelson's* home loan deal with Mr Robinson saw both of them leave *their jobs.* Mr Whelan and Mr Brown had talked about the possibility of him leaving.

Although his constant companion for the past five years and the man credited with helping to make Mr Brown the most popular post-war *Chancellor, Mr Whelan's* reputation was in danger of becoming as crumpled as one of his *suits.*

Those — including Mr Blair, whose attempts to have him sacked after the election failed — who claimed Mr Whe*lan's dark skills* were best served to Opposition rather than government were soon claiming evidence.

Since early last year No 10 officials have been trying to tell their neighbour that his Spurs-supporting sidekick whose aggressive manner belied his past as the midfield engine of the First XI at Ottershaw, a *state school* in Surrey, if not his role in *HMS Pinafore* and other school productions, was damaging the Chancellor.

Whether it was disclosing to a TV *documentary that he did* not always tell the whole truth, or being blamed as a chief source of the Gordon Brown biography that severely damaged relations between Nos 10 and 11, or briefing the press on his mobile phone from outside *Whitehall's Red Lion* pub about a shift in the Government's policy towards the single currency, Mr Whelan's often unguarded and always colourful manner has attracted critics. Each time his continued position was raised, but *Mr Brown* refused to fire someone who had become one of his closest friends.

But it was in November, when a newspaper briefing *sourced to Mr Whelan* threatened to re-open the wounds between Mr Brown and Mr *Mandelson with a vengeance,* that his future became an active topic of discussion in the Treasury.

Whitehall sources suggest *Mr Whelan could have* been on his way over the Christmas recess anyway by agreement, *but then the Mandelson-Robinson* affair surfaced to muddy the waters.

In the immediate aftermath, Mr Brown encouraged his spin-doctor to lie low. According to Whitehall sources, he also indicated to Mr Blair that *Mr Whelan,* branded "a little oik" by one unnamed Downing Street official, would be gone before the return of the Commons next week.

What remained was for Mr Whelan to be allowed to plot his exit strategy.

As far back as last Tuesday senior ministers were talking up Mr Whelan's qualities. Late that day the Treasury suddenly put out a statement saying Mr Brown stood by his man.

There followed later in the week *an explicit message from* No 10 that not only was there no evidence against Mr Whelan for the Mandelson leak, but that Downing Street officials did not believe he was the source. During weekend interviews Margaret Beckett, the Leader of the House, who has herself been on the wrong end of many a Charlie Whelan-inspired story, was effusive with *her praise.*

Although the signals may have appeared to point in one direction, they combined to allow Mr Whelan to depart with more of an enhanced position, strength and respect than if he had been sacked.

Few *doubt* that *Mr* Whelan's departure leaves Wetsminster a greyer place. None of his colleagues match the colour of his language, his stami*na at the bar or the savagery* of his put-downs.

But that is also why many *minsters* and MPs were *pri*vately welcoming the fact that the man dubbed yesterday by one as "an accident waiting to happen" was on his way.


Charlie Whelan is surrounded by reporters as he arrives at the Treasury yesterday morning before announcing that he was about to quit


The young Whelan, left, in a play at Ottershaw School

HOW THEY PLAYED MUSICAL CHAIRS

THE lives of a dozen ministers, MPs and advisers have been turned upside down by the events of recent weeks:

Peter Mandelson resigned as Trade and Industry Secretary over his £373,000 home loan from Geoffrey Robinson;

Mr Robinson resigned as Paymaster General after the disclosure but was going to quit anyway after attacks on his past business dealings;

Charlie Whelan, Gordon Brown's press secretary, is to leave his job;

Stephen Byers, former *Chief Secretary to the Treasury,* became Trade Secretary;

Alan Milburn, former Health Minister, joined the Cabinet as Chief Secretary;

John Denham, former Social Security Minister promoted to Health Minister;

Stephen Timms moved up in Social Security Department;

Hugh Bayley, former PPS to *Health Secretary, became* Social Security Minister;

Dawn Primarolo, Finan*cial Secretary to Treasury,* becomes Paymaster General;

Barbara Roche, former Trade and Industry Minister, becomes Financial Secretary;

Michael Wills, *MP* for Swindon North, becomes junior Trade Minister (unpaid);

Ben Wegg-Prosser, *Mr* Mandelson's former special adviser, is out of a job.

***Despite a move all but* being announced by Downing Street, Geoff Hoon stays put in the Lord Chancellor's Department. Although Mr Hoon was lined up to replace Mr Robinson, Lord Irvine of Lairg objected to losing him**

It's now time for Brown to move on

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

GORDON BROWN no longer needs Charlie Whelan. Like the already departed *Geoffrey Robinson,* Mr Whelan belongs to Mr Brown's Prince Hal days. The roistering band of lads ate *pizzas,* watched football and plotted a new economic strategy, albeit in the elegance of the Grosvenor House rather than the more lowly Boar's Head Tavern in Eastcheap.

That was fine for Opposition, but, in office, Mr Brown has outgrown this phase. So their resignations are a liberation, a chance for Mr Brown to develop as Chancellor, to demonstrate that *he has "turned away my former self"* and "those that kept me company".

The danger is that Mr Brown will, instead, see the departures of Mr Whelan and Mr Robinson as a personal defeat and a victory for his enemies. So he may turn even more upon himself.

Mr Brown's main flaw is his factionalism, his preference for working with tight groups of advisers and long-term *allies,* and *his* suspicion of the motives and actions of other Labour leaders. That fed the destructive rivalry with Peter Mandelson that has so sapped and divided the Blair Government. As so often, the *real damage* was often done by acolytes spreading rumours.

Mr Whelan was the ultimately loyal *courtier, and, at times, court jester* who defended and promoted his master in all the low inns frequented by the press. Often, it was his combative, rumbustious style that stirred conspiracy *stories more than any news he leaked;* not least because, in contrast with Ed Balls, the Chancellor's economics adviser, he was generally on the outside of policymaking. But as Mr Whelan recognised *in his statement* yesterday, once he became the story, he lost much of his usefulness to Mr Brown.

The repeated flurry of "Brown versus ..." stories have damaged the Chancellor, *just as he* indirectly suffered from the continuing run of allegations against, and inquiries about, Mr Robinson. Mr Brown's *defensiveness* and cliquishness — as so far expressed through people such as Mr Whelan and Brownite MPs — have reduced, rather than enhanced, Mr *Brown's standing. Other Cabinet ministers* are wary of him.

Mr Brown is a far more considerable figure than all this speculation suggests. Few would guess that he spent *much of the second half of last year* pushing international financial reform. In private, he is relaxed, witty and intellectually wide-ranging, by far one of the most thoughtful members of the Government. *He should allow this* more open side of his personality a fuller play. He does not need to fear conspiracies or plots. He needs, above all, to relax, and not to look over his shoulder all the time. Unlike most recent Chancellors, Mr Brown has the strong backing of his Prime Minister, even *though Tony Blair is at times exasper*ated by his old friend. Over the past few days, Mr Blair has been insistent *that nothing must be said or done to* undermine Mr Brown.

One sign of Mr Brown's continuing influence is that one of his close allies, the talented former television producer Michael Wills, has been brought into Government as a junior minister.

Mr Whelan's departure offers the chance to clear the air *after* Peter Mandelson's resignation two weeks ago — and to find a more low key and conventional personal press officer. Mr Brown should recognise this rather than regard the *Whelan/Robinson* exits as a cause for further recriminations. Mr Whelan has served him well, at times too well. But it is time to move on from Prince Hal. Mr Brown is now a *bigger man and should behave* accordingly.

PETER RIDDELL

'Quite a catch' for the private sector

Carol Midgley looks at the career opportunities open to a man with inside knowledge of the Treasury

THE resignation of Gordon Brown's rumbustious press secretary sparked a new White*hall debate yesterday: what* will Charlie do next?

Rumours about Mr Whelan's career prospects were rife almost as soon as he an*nounced he* was *stepping* down. Close friends were said to be urging *him* to cash in by writing a book about his time at the Treasury. *The World at One* on BBC Radio 4 suggested he was considering a career as a *television chat show host* or a political pundit.

Mr Whelan, who studied politics at the City of London Polytechnic, is understood to have ruled out working for any other Whitehall department and intends to try his luck in the private sector.

Experts predicted a deluge of job offers from public relations, lobbying and City firms that would more than treble his £50,000 salary. His knowledge of the Chancellor and the *Treasury would make him* a valuable commodity, particularly for City consultants.

Lord Bell quashed early rumours that Mr Whelan was being lined up to work for his company, Bell Pottinger: "I *have never met* Charlie Whelan or even spoken to him," he said. "But he will find with real PR you have to work rather harder to get stories in the press than you do *based in* Whitehall. In politics, you don't have to sell stories, you have regular lobby briefings.

"It's very difficult to adapt to the private sector. People don't ring you up — you have to ring them. I don't know . . . Charlie Whelan may be fantastically brilliant but what the press of*ten describes as great spin-doc*toring is no more than selling stories which would have sold anyway if they had just appeared on a screen."

One lobbyist, who asked not to be named, said: "Charlie *has been very high profile and* a lot of chief executives don't like hiring people whose name is more famous than the company's. But he has the gift of *the gab and* he will be in a top job pretty soon. He does swank a lot but he *is* incredibly loyal."

A financial commentator said *Mr* Whelan may set up his own consultancy as he may be too "larger than life" to fit into a big organisation.

Britain's most famous press *manager, Max Clifford,* predicted a financially rosy future for Mr Whelan. "Anybody who has been at the centre of government, in terms of policy, ideas and activities, *is hugely* attractive, particularly to the City," he said. "By going into the private sector he could pick up £500,000 a year easily. You are aware of so much that other people would love to know about. *Just* think of a multinational company that is desperate to know how Gordon Brown is thinking."

One political consultant close to *Mr Whelan,* however, predicted he would follow in the footsteps of Baroness Thatcher's former press secretary, Sir Bernard Ingham, and become a television pundit. "Charlie could well end up being someone like Ingham, giv*ing his opinions* on the issues of the day and occasionally doing a bit of consultancy work. He would be great," he said.

"He's a good communicator *and knows the Government* inside out. If he learnt about the commercial world, he *could* advise companies about their position with the Government and the Treasury. Knowing Charlie, he'll want to remain *political.* If he went *into* the City working *for* merchant bankers or financial institutions, with his knowledge of government and the economy *he could make a lot more.* He'd be quite a catch."

Leading article, page 17

December 29: "Unauthorised, anonymous briefings have caused trouble for the Government, are causing trouble and ought to stop" Jack Cunningham, the Cabinet enforcer

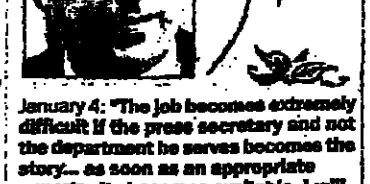
December 30: [illegible]

December 31: "I was well aware that Charlie Whelan was doing a great deal of damage, not just actually as theft, but in the period up to this point of departure" Frank Field, former Social Security Minister



January 1: "I know that Mandelson, who has the ear of the Prime Minister, would blame Charlie (Whelan) for the leak, even though it had nothing to do with him" Paul Routledge, close friend of Whelan

January 2: "If private ambitions and grudges and grievances and disappointments are allowed free rein ... that is a recipe for disaster" Lord Shore, Cabinet minister in the Wilson Government, on rivalry in Blair's team



January 3: "I never subscribe to demanding anybody's head on a platter, particular when they are good at their job" Margaret Beckett, Leader of the House, on Charlie Whelan

January 4: "The job becomes extremely difficult if the press secretary and not the department he serves becomes the story... as soon as an appropriate opportunity becomes available, I will move on" Charlie Whelan

Crony claim as Blair's friend takes on Dome

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

TONY BLAIR faced fresh charges of cronyism from the Conservatives last night after handing one his oldest friends the responsibility for the Millennium Dome.

Lord Falconer of Thoroton, who shared a house with the Prime Minister in their days as young barristers, is taking over as government shareholder in the Dome, overseeing the £758 million Greeenwich exhibition following the resignation of Peter Mandelson.

Lord Falconer was ennobled after the 1997 election, became Solicitor-General, then moved to be Minister of State at the Cabinet Office, which gives him a seat on 14 cabinet committees. Last night he said: "The Dome at Greenwich will be the centrepiece of the UK's hugely diverse celebrations in the year 2000. Much has been achieved so far to deliver it on time and on budget. The year ahead holds further challenges to which I am sure the New Millennium Experience Company is more than equal."

Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, will answer questions on the Dome in the Commons, but Lord Falconer will have ultimate responsiblity. Peter Ainsworth, the Shadow Culture Secretary, criticised the appointment as "yet another example of the cronyism that pervades this government".

Mr Ainsworth, who had called for a non-political figure with business experience to take over from Mr Mandelson, asked: "In what way is Lord Falconer qualified to take on the task, other than the fact that he is a close friend of Tony Blair?

"The announcement will no nothing to dispel public scepticism whilst risking the success of the project."

Lord Falconer, 48, is married with four children and lives in Islington, North London, where his next-door neighbour is Gary Hart, special adviser to Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor.

He is a pop music fan and, like many in their forties, his first love remains the hits of the 1960s and 1970s with particular favourites being the Rolling Stones and the Beatles. His party trick is to name the B-sides of almost any hit in the early 1960s.

His wife Marianna, a family law barrister, said last night: "His great love, undoubtedly, is pop music. He is stuck on the old hits like so many who grew up in the 60s and 70s.

"But we have young children and there is nothing he cannot tell people about the Spice Girls and other new groups."

She said that her husband liked music by groups such as the Rolling Stones, Beatles and Beach Boys. Lord Falconer is also a regular theatre goer and visits the opera "regularly but infrequently", according to his wife.

His last two visits to the theatre were over Christmas to see *Peter Pan* at the Eden Court theatre in Inverness and *Dick Whittington* at the Theatre Royal in Nottingham.

Lord Falconer, Charlie to his friends, is one of the Prime Minister's closest confidants having first met Mr Blair when they were schoolboys in Edinburgh more than 30 years ago.

They have remained the closest of friends, working as barristers in different chambers in the same building in London and sharing a house in Wandsworth, southwest London. Lord Falconer and his wife dine regularly with the Blairs.

He was earning a reported £500,000 a year as a barrister but gave up his lucrative commercial practice for a peerage and a much lower government salary after the 1997 general election. He became Solicitor-General and then in last summer's reshuffle inherited Mr Mandelson's job as Minister without Portfolio at the Cabinet Office.

One official said: "He is a lovely man to work for. He works hard but it is great fun. There is no side to the man. His shirt is often hanging out of his trousers."



Family man: Lord Falconer with his wife, children, father and stepmother on the day he was sworn in as Solicitor-General

'Red Dawn' rewarded for her loyalty

Roland Watson on a radical's rise to the post of Paymaster General

FEW have made the transition from left-wing rebel to loyal Minister of the Crown as smoothly as Dawn Primarolo, the new Paymaster General.

Less than eight years ago the Bennite "Red Dawn" was standing in Bristol Magistrates' Court defending her right not to pay the poll tax, and receiving a liability order for her trouble.

Today, as she spends her first full day as the most important Treasury minister outside the Cabinet, repetition of the story still irks her but has done nothing to halt her steady rise through the ranks. Few were tipping her to fill the post made vacant by the resignation of Geoffrey Robinson before *Christmas*, but Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, values loyalty above all other political attributes and Ms Primarolo has been loyal to a fault.

She may have betrayed her frustrations in private, and when her parliamentary private secratary, Mick Clapham, resigned as part of the revolt against cuts to single mothers' benefits, many saw her own unease in his action.

But the woman who built part of her early reputation for outspokenness around her support of single mothers' rights went out in public to defend the cuts.

Ms Primarolo is only the third woman to hold the post of Paymaster General. She follows in the footsteps of Judith Hart, later Baroness Hart of South Lannock, who held the job from 1968 to 1969, and of Shirley Williams, later Baroness Williams of Crosby, who held it from 1976 to 1979.

Those who knew Ms Primarolo in Bristol in the mid 1980s say that her transformation has been remarkable.

She served as Tony Benn's constituency secretary while also a member of the now-defunct Avon County Council. After Mr Benn was shunted out of a parliamentary seat by his fellow Labour MP, Michael Cocks, later Baron Cocks of Hartcliffe, through a boundary reorganisation, Ms Primarolo exacted the Left's revenge five years later, although it took her four ballots to oust Mr Cocks and become the MP for Bristol South.

Born in Bow, East London, she had moved to Bristol with her first husband and their son. She initially turned her back on higher education, preferring to take a secretarial course and start work, but later took a degree in politics and economics at Bristol University. She separated from Michael Primarolo, a teacher, in 1983, and has since married Ian Ducat, a Bristol-based union official.

Chirpy and engaging in private, she has learnt the value of relative silence in public and chooses her words carefully in the few media interviews she gives.

And since joining the Labour front bench as a health spokeswoman in 1992, later to be transferred into Mr Brown's shadow Treasury team in 1994, there have been precious few signs of her rebellious past.

Hospitals put on alert as flu sweeps south

Wards are short of beds and staff, reports **Elizabeth Judge**

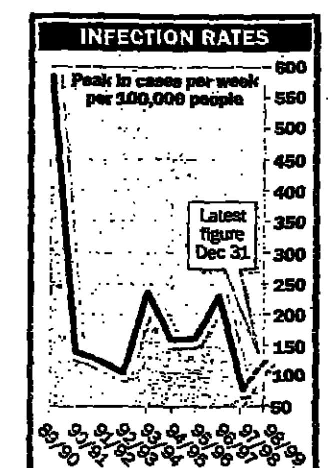
HOSPITALS are struggling to cope with sufferers of the two strains of flu moving south through the country. All but emergency admissions have been banned at some because beds have been filled by flu victims, or because of staff shortages caused by the illness. Ambulance services are also fighting to keep up with the surge in calls.

An appeal for help from student nurses was made by Royal Liverpool Hospital, where one elderly woman with flu fell from a trolley after waiting four hours to be seen. The pensioner had 30 stitches to her head and was put back on the trolley, where she waited another ten hours to be seen.

Steve Flanagan, a regional officer in Liverpool with the Royal College of Nursing, said: "There has been a 22 per cent increase in emergency admissions over the Christmas period because of the flu bug. To cope with this the hospital has opened additional wards." The hospital will be on red alert until Thursday.

Merseyside Regional Ambulance Service received 300 calls a day more than usual in the post-Christmas period, most for flu. A spokesman said: "We are sitting in corridors with the patients on our trolleys for up to three hours."

Flu was also causing severe problems in the West Midlands. A spokesman from Royal Wolverhampton Hospital said that ambulances were having to park and wait 15 minutes to drop off patients. "We normally have about 260 people in beds. That number has risen to 400 because of the flu bug.



"Hospital staff are getting to the end of their tether. They are more than fully stretched and using every last ounce of their natural resources," the spokesman said.

The hospital has shut four operating theatres and transferred theatre nurses to other wards. One hundred nurses are having to work back-to-back shifts because of the large number of patients and because staff are ill with the flu.

In Leeds, three times the normal number of patients have been admitted to casualty since Christmas Eve. A spokesman for United Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust said: "The number of patients is worse than it ever has been, in a large measure as a result of the flu virus. The main problem is not a lack of beds but a lack of staff because they are also falling ill with flu."

The hospital is postponing non-urgent surgery to make as many beds available as possible and does not expect to return to normal before the end of the month.

Bedford Hospital has been put on red alert after admitting 450 patients with flu and other illnesses in nine days. Two patients were cared for in operating theatres until beds in intensive care could be found. Red alert means that all scheduled admissions are cancelled, and only emergencies are admitted.

Staff at York District Hospital dealt with more than 200 flu patients at the weekend. Colin Watts, general manager, said that 32 operations were cancelled yesterday because 75 flu patients were taking up beds on surgery wards.

A spokesman for the London Ambulance Service said that compared with last year it had received double the number of call-outs on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

At Kingston Hospital, southwest London, three people had to be assessed by nurses in ambulances parked outside because the accident unit was so busy on Saturday.

John MacDonald, chief executive of the John Radcliffe hospital in Oxford, said: "We have been very busy since Boxing Day. People have been waiting in accident and emergency for assessment and admission to a bed."

Leading article, page 17



A patient with flu symptoms booking an appointment at Northfield Health Centre, Birmingham. Sufferers are advised to drink plenty and go to bed

Devious little bug is hard to pin down

By Ian Murray
Medical Correspondent

ONLY an expert with a microscope can tell the difference between a cold and a flu, so a patient struck down by flu-like symptoms cannot know whether to expect a few days of sniffles or a few weeks in bed with pneumonia.

The flu virus is very infectious and easily transmitted by a sneeze or cough. It is especially prevalent over the holiday period because people mix more at seasonal parties, spreading the germs. Many people, however, are not even aware that they have been infected because they quickly develop an immunity to the virus.



Influenza A viruses

The two flu strains behind this year's seasonal outbreak are the more dangerous A-strain or "Sydney flu", and the less severe B-strain or "-Beijing flu". At present there are five cases of the Sydney flu for every three cases of the Beijing strain.

If you succumb, go to bed and keep warm

A TROUBLESOME flu epidemic was expected this season, partly because flu is cyclical but also because there had been a disappointing take-up of flu injections available for those at most risk of complications.

Patients should take to their beds: remaining in an even, warm temperature is most important. Keeping away from others is also useful — colds and flu are most infectious in their early stages.

Unless, of course, they have been sent to hospital by a doctor, patients should not seek treatment there: they can catch other infections that make the illness more dangerous.

Sufferers should drink plenty of fluids — and, if adult, take aspirin to reduce their temperature and an over-the-counter cough remedy so that they can get some sleep. Those under 16 should not take aspirin but should use a paracetamol preparation. Sweet, syrupy drinks will help to counter dehydration.

Antibiotics will not alleviate the initial viral symptoms, but they can be life-saving if secondary infection occurs.

There is a case for giving immediate antibiotics to those who are particularly vulnerable — people with pre-existing heart, kidney or lung disease, those suffering from any immune disorder or taking steroids, or with a history of malignancy.

Patients need to see a doctor urgently if the phlegm turns green or yellow, if they suffer breathlessness, and particularly if they develop a blueish complexion or become confused. Doctors never mind being called out to see the two most fragile groups, the very old and babies — or, of course, anyone else in whom flu seems to have become complicated.

Symptoms usually clear up within ten days although this year the effects have been rather more prolonged.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

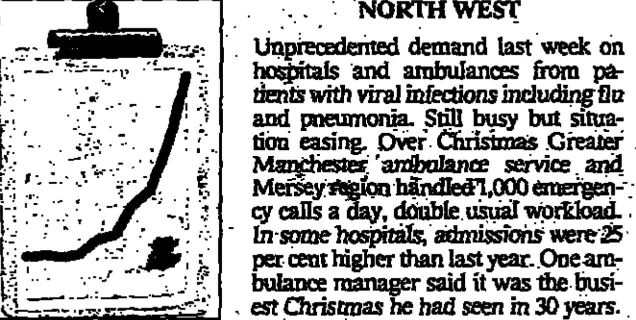
EASTERN

Influenza and related illnesses are putting great pressure on services. Demand on hospitals and ambulance services is rising and demands on staff are greater than last year. Ambulance services were under extreme pressure over Christmas. East Anglia ambulance service had 360 emergency calls on some days compared with an average of 250. Ambulance demand is, however, decreasing and health officials hope the situation has peaked.



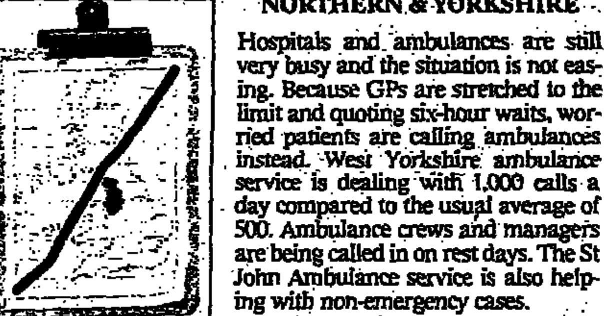
LONDON & SOUTH EAST

The south coast has not yet been badly affected but the flu is expected soon to put pressure on London hospitals. There is an increase in elderly patients being admitted with respiratory problems, many thought to be flu related. The biggest fear is the increasing number of staff falling ill, often the first to be affected and difficult to replace at this time of year. Health officials are monitoring the situation in the Midlands as it seems to be moving south.



NORTH WEST

Unprecedented demand last week on hospitals and ambulances from patients with viral infections including flu and pneumonia. Still busy but situation easing. Over Christmas Greater Manchester ambulance service and Mersey region handled 1,000 emergency calls a day, double usual workload. In some hospitals, admissions were 25 per cent higher than last year. One ambulance manager said it was the busiest Christmas he had seen in 30 years.

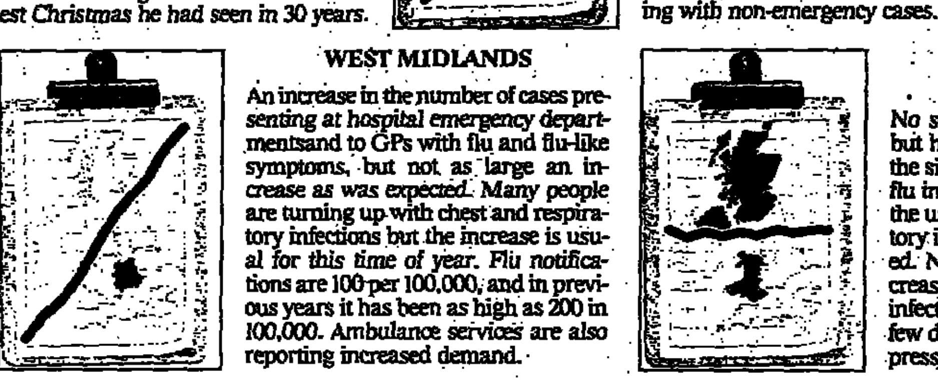


NORTHERN & YORKSHIRE

Hospitals and ambulances are still very busy and the situation is not easing. Because GPs are stretched to the limit and quoting six-hour waits, worried patients are calling ambulances instead. West Yorkshire ambulance service is dealing with 1,000 calls a day compared to the usual average of 500. Ambulance crews and managers are being called in on rest days. The St John Ambulance service is also helping with non-emergency cases.

TRENT

A steep rise in demand for hospital services. GP consultations for flu and flu-like symptoms are 140 per 100,000 which is high but not yet an epidemic and similar to last year. A new emergency local action plan has been activated letting health services cope by opening emergency wards. Rotherham hospital yesterday opened a wing with 28 beds and extra staff have been recruited to run it. Doncaster hospital had opened an extra ward with 80 beds.



SOUTH & WEST

There has not yet been a significant increase in demand on services because of influenza. The south and west regions are still reporting only 41 cases per 100,000 of the population per week, which is normal for this time of year. Hospitals are busy but coping. There is an increase in admissions for respiratory infections — especially among the elderly — in southwest Devon and in Dorset, where there is extra pressure on the system.

WEST MIDLANDS

An increase in the number of cases presenting at hospital emergency departmentsand to GPs with flu and flu-like symptoms, but not as large an increase as was expected. Many people are turning up with chest and respiratory infections but the increase is usual for this time of year. Flu notifications are 100 per 100,000, and in previous years it has been as high as 200 in 100,000. Ambulance services are also reporting increased demand.



SCOTLAND, WALES & NORTHERN IRELAND

No serious problems at the moment but health authorities are monitoring the situation. No significant reports of flu in any of these regions but there is the usual seasonal increase in respiratory illnesses which are often flu related. Northern Ireland has seen an increase in admissions with respiratory infections to acute hospitals over past few days, which is putting some extra pressure on hospitals.

Third friend falls ill with meningitis

By Russell Jenkins

A TEENAGER who lost two friends to meningitis is being treated in hospital for the same disease. The news came as research was launched to discover why cases of meningoccal disease have more than doubled among teenagers in the past five years.

The latest patient, Louise Salmons, 16, was in a stable condition at Barnsley District General Hospital, South Yorkshire. Her friends Claire Wilkinson, 14, and Adam Rawson, 15, died on New Year's Eve.

She is a former pupil at Wath Comprehensive School, near Rotherham, where all 1,750 pupils are being given antibiotics as a precautionary measure.

The stepfather of Miss Wilkinson is to write to the Prime Minister to complain that her treatment was delayed when she was transferred 40 miles to Nottingham because there was no room in the local intensive care unit.

Malcolm Bates, of Swinton, near Rotherham, said: "I do not want other parents to go through what Claire's mother and I have suffered. I am doing my grieving in private but I am making my anger public."

A 38-year-old woman with meningitis had to be flown by RAF helicopter from Birkenhead to North Tees General Hospital in Middlesbrough because there were no intensive care beds available in northwest England. Susan Cairns was in a critical condition last night. In Poynton, Cheshire, friends of two teenage patients who are thought to have contracted meningitis at a Christmas party are being vaccinated against the disease. In Gateshead, 2,500 pupils at two schools are being immunised after six pupils went down with the disease and a 12-year-old boy died.

The Meningitis Research Foundation is funding a two-year research programme, which begins this week, to try to find out why teenagers are at increased risk. The foundation said last night that cases of meningoccal disease - meningitis and septicaemia - had more than doubled among teenagers in five years. Researchers will compare blood samples taken from infected teenagers with those from healthy volunteers.

They want to know whether social factors such as smoking, kissing or drinking alcohol increase the risk. The research is being led by Robert Booy, lecturer in paediatrics at St Mary's Hospital in Paddington, North London.

Jo Tully, the project co-ordinator, said: "The results will inform decisions about public health strategies and new vaccines."

The National Meningitis Trust has given warning that the disease is more prevalent at this time of year because it can be spread by coughs and sneezes. About 3,000 people contract meningitis each year, and about 300 die.

هكذا من الأصل

Butlin's welcome awaited Cold War evacuees

Mark Henderson on the holiday camp send-off arranged for 33,000 departing Americans

A SECRET plan to send thousands of Americans to Butlin's holiday camps before evacuating them from Europe in the event of war with the Soviet Union has been revealed in documents released under the 50-year rule.

More than 30,000 American citizens were to be shipped to the US under Operation Whizzbang, an evacuation blueprint drawn up by British and American officials as tension with the USSR grew before the Berlin airlift in 1948.

About 10,000 Americans living in Britain were to leave on merchant ships and US Navy vessels within days of a conflict breaking out. A further 23,000 from continental Europe, though not occupied Germany, were planned to follow. Holding camps for the European evacuees were to be set up in holiday resorts around Britain, with Butlin's camps at Pwllheli in North Wales and Ayr in Scotland earmarked to house 9,000 people.

Operation Whizzbang was first conceived by naval attachés at the US embassy in London to evacuate only those Americans living in Britain. It was later extended to cover northwest Europe after investigations found that a direct evacuation from France or the Netherlands would be impractical.

The proposal to use Butlin's camps came from R. K. Jago, a civil servant at the Ministry of Works, who suggested the idea to the top-secret Anglo-American group that developed the plans. Camps, he argued, would be more practical than hotels, which would prove hard to staff.

"If the emergency arose during the summer months when the camps were open, there would be no difficulty in arranging to earmark two of them, complete with staff," a minute of the second group meeting said.

"If the emergency arose during the winter when the camps were closed, it could either be arranged with Mr Butlin or the camps requisitioned and arrangements made for the National Service Hostels' Association to do the running of the camps.

"[Mr Jago] felt the holiday camps would be ideal in that they were already equipped and arranged for catering for large numbers of people at one time, and would have the advantage that whole trainloads could be made up from one centre to go to any port."

The Ayr and Pwllheli sites were chosen for their proximity to the ports of Greenock and Liverpool. To cater for evacuation via Southampton and Plymouth, a list of smaller camps along the south coast that would hold another 13,000 was drawn up.

The plan was approved in the autumn, and the Prime Minister, Clement Attlee, was informed in December 1948. Details were kept "top secret", and British officials even vetoed the idea of involving the Republic of Ireland for fear of a leak. The Foreign Office was not told about Whizzbang until almost everything was in place, and FO officials complained to the Cabinet Office and the US Embassy about being kept in the dark.

Britain also warned Commodore Shelley, the US naval attaché, that any leak "could hardly fail to have a bad effect here and on Anglo-American relations".

London, home to 40 per cent of the Americans in Britain, was to be the "nerve centre" of the operation. Non-American dependents would have been eligible for evacuation, but able-bodied men would only have been allowed to leave once there was no more they could do to help to move out women, children and invalids.

America later tried to get Britain to agree to include 31,000 citizens from occupied Germany, but Britain felt this was impractical and asked for a French port to be considered.



Riverside romance: Abigail Wilkinson and David Wielders on their wedding day

Tourist marries her 'Crocodile Dundee' rescuer

By A Correspondent

A BACKPACKER from Birmingham has married her own "Crocodile Dundee" after he rescued her from a crocodile-infested river in the Australian outback.

Abigail Wilkinson's dramatic meeting with her husband-to-be, David Wielders, happened while she was on a canoeing trip at Fitzroy Crossing in Western Australia. The 24-year-old lawyer capsized and Mr Wielders, a cattle station worker from Femantle, saw her struggling towards the shore and pulled her to safety.

They were married four months later in the village of Humpty Doo before heading for Darwin, capital of the Northern Territory. They are now continuing their travels and hope to visit the Solomon Islands in the next couple of months.

Speaking yesterday from the family home in Solihull, West Midlands, Ms Wilkinson's father, Peter, said that his daughter had telephoned him an hour before the wedding to get his blessing.

"I admit that it came as a bit of a shock," he said. "But she is a very sensible girl who has her head screwed on. She became disenchanted with her life in Birmingham and decided to do some travelling, though she had no intention of getting married.

"She met David after tumbling into the water while she was canoeing. The last thing she saw before going under was a sign saying 'Beware of the Crocodiles'.

"Luckily her 'knight in shining armour', who was with a separate group, had seen what had happened and rescued her. It was love at first sight."

He added that his daughter had also fallen in love with Australia and he did not believe that she and her new husband would live in England.

Colonial attack on 'lazy' Jamaicans

By Mark Henderson

THE colonial governor of Jamaica during the Second World War condemned the Caribbean island's inhabitants as lazy, intolerable and unreasonable, according to a newly released document from 1940.

The scathing attack by Sir Arthur Richards, who singled out local politicians for particular abuse, was made in a letter to Lord Lloyd, the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The island was "a headache", Sir Arthur wrote, because "the Jamaican is so intractable and intolerable, with very few exceptions white or black. The Jamaican envies and hates success whether in his fellows or imported officers whom he hates anyway".

Proposals for democratic reform put forward by the nationalist leader Norman Manly were a non-starter, he said, because of "the lack of any decent material other than Manly himself".

Jamaican politicians fell into three categories: "disgruntled failures whose laziness or incompetence have denied the position they have come to occupy"; "rabid communists, largely inspired by the hatred of the white man"; or "pure theorists with no practical knowledge at all".

Teeth alert for cancer children

By Our Medical Correspondent

MANY children with cancer run an extra, life-threatening risk by not having regular dental checks, researchers say.

Chemotherapy causes a range of mouth problems and cancer makes children more prone to dangerous infections.

Research was carried out on 60 children with cancer aged between one and 14 being treated at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital.

The survey, published in *Archives of Disease in Childhood*, found abnormally high levels of tooth decay, with 21 needing urgent treatment and five others with some problems. All the children were reviewed and their teeth inspected at outpatient clinics.

The families and medical teams were reluctant to go outside the hospital service on which they had become reliant. Hospital dental services are largely limited to emergencies and extractions.

☐ Dentists who treat at least three quarters of their patients on the NHS say they have greater job insecurity and less job satisfaction than colleagues who take on more private work, according to a British Dental Association poll.

Hospital shops pose drug risk

By Ian Murray
Medical Correspondent

HOSPITAL shops are failing to restrict sales of over-the counter medicines despite the threat of overdose by patients.

A survey in the *Psychiatric Bulletin*, published today, found that an emphasis on commercial rather than clinical considerations was behind the lack of adequate sales restrictions.

The survey of 73 hospitals found that 20 had shops that stocked over-the-counter medicines that would be dangerous in overdose or could interfere with existing treatments. The drugs contained in the remedies included paracetamol, aspirin and ibuprofen.

Fifteen of the 20 hospitals had psychiatric wards. At three of these, patients had taken overdoses of medicines bought from the shops but the hospitals went on selling the drugs afterwards, although with restrictions.

The report, by David Somerfield of Cossham Hospital, Bristol,said that shop managers were more used to commercial considerations, so it was not surprising that the dangers of selling medicines to inpatients were not always identified.

Fourteen of the 20 shops had sales policies in place, but only one shop had devised a robust system to restrict sales, Dr Somerfield said.Most of the policies could be overcome by the determined patient.

Dr Somerfield said the best policy would be to restrict all sales to staff carrying identification or, more simply, to prohibit medication sales entirely.

LIVING WITH THE EURO

US hides fear at threat to strong dollar

Europe's world role in balance, writes Bronwen Maddox in Washington

THE *Clinton Administration* has greeted the launch of the euro with a cautious enthusiasm that belies the problems the project may present for the United States and for its relations with Europe.

"If it works, then it will be a good thing" has been the official line — a scrupulous agnosticism with a warm gloss, repeated this week as the euro started trading. "If it works in part or in whole, Europe will be stronger economically, and a stronger Europe is fundamentally good for the US," said Robert Shapiro, Under Secretary of Commerce for Economic Affairs.

American support has been fuelled by a desire for European countries to manage the region's politics more harmoniously, and by a widespread perception that European leaders run to the United States for military help when trouble breaks out. "We've sorted out four wars for them — World War I, World War II, the Cold War and Bosnia," one Administration official has said.

American businesses have also been boisterous cheerleaders for monetary union. They expect that it will make it easier for them to market their products across borders. They will have to hedge against the risk of currency movements in one currency, not eleven.

America's manufacturers also see Europe as a fortress of companies that may be dominant in their well-protected local markets, but are less competitive than their US rivals. The end of currency fluctuations will expose companies trying to sell at high prices, and favour those whose products are cheaper, US companies argue.

They have the advantage of honing competitive skills and efficiency across 50 states, in a market of more than 250 million people. But, as dozens of US banks and retailers will testify, they have repeatedly misjudged how to break into the European market.

But behind the optimism, benevolence and goodwill, is a wide vein of unease. Officials are concerned that, if the euro is successful, it will lure capital away from the dollar — the world's dominant currency for half a century — which now accounts for nearly 60 per cent of global capital reserves.

That is about four times as much as the European currencies together, even though the economic output of euroland is close to that of the US.

If the euro began to change that balance, the shift could push up the cost of borrowing dollars for the US Government and companies.

The Wall Street Journal declared that, with the euro's launch, "Europe has thrown down the first postwar challenge to the US dollar's dominance of international trade and finace. The advent ... of EMU doesn't just change the world's financial landscape," it argued, "it also could alter the global balance of power".

If the project begins to unravel, it could distract Europe's attention from world problems, making it more introverted and even less cohesive as a political bloc, officials fear. America could then be left alone to fight the new "financial war" of the Asian economic crisis.

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Gerrit Zalm gets a sticky greeting as he enters the Amsterdam stock exchange to watch the start of euro trading yesterday. He was not amused

Custard pie start on trading floor

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

WHILE traders began working with the European Union's new world currency yesterday, a band of Dutch pranksters won global coverage for themselves by shoving cream tarts in the face of their Finance Minister.

Gerrit Zalm, a leading figure in the EU finance council, lost his usual sense of humour when he was attacked as he walked into the Amsterdam stock exchange to watch the euro's first business day. "This is incomprehensible ... an anti-democratic action," said Mr Zalm as he wiped whipped cream off his face.

The attack was claimed by a local group calling itself TAART (a Dutch acronym for Against Authoritarian Anti-Revolutionary Characters). Its leaflet said that the "festive action" was intended to underline the "megalomaniac and anti-democratic" nature of the single currency. TAART attacks on celebrities are a staple practice of anarchist pranksters in Belgium and The Netherlands. The last prominent victim was Bill Gates, the Microsoft chairman hit by a pie in Brussels last year.

The only other hiccup to the smooth launch of the euro yesterday came when the European Commission yielded to the Bank of England and decreed that the plural form of the euro in English would end with an "s". The Commission had ruled that, for simplicity's sake, the euro would have no plural form in the EU's 11 official languages. However, the Bank of England, the City and the Irish Republic have all been writing "euros". Commission officials were musing on the irony of being forced to change by the one big country outside monetary union.

☐ Official suspended: Relations between the Commission and the European Parliament were soured further yesterday after the Brussels executive confirmed that it had suspended Paul van Buiten, a Dutch finance inspector in the Commission's financial control unit, who reported to the Parliament about alleged fraud and cover-ups by Commission officials.

Money that is easier to receive than to give

BY ALAN HAMILTON

TO HARRODS for half a Vieux Boulogne cheese, armed with €100 in travellers' cheques. They get offered every currency under the sun in Knightsbridge; surely they would not turn a hair at dealing with this latest arrival.

Euros were easier to acquire than to dispose of in London yesterday. An American Express bureau de change in the City offered them at £73.38 including commission, and a free warning that they might be tricky to get rid of.

Not much good for cheese, certainly. Harrods' cheese lady took it remarkably well when offered a €50 travellers' cheque (£36) in payment for the £4.50 cheese. "We can do it, sir, but it's a bit complicated. You'll have to go to the accounts office on the fifth floor, and it will take you the best part of half an hour." Vieux Boulogne is best not over-matured, so we bottled out with cash. Across the street to the Hyde Park Hotel, bedecked with French and German flags, to test the euro as payment for a £360-a-night double room. They had not seen one before, but were the soul of smooth. "Of course we would accept it, sir, but we would have to have it converted into sterling first; we could, of course, do that for you."

An £8 taxi fare across town was bound to be trouble. Try offering a genuine Bank of England £50 note to a cabbie, and he will doubt your sanity and parentage. "Wouldn't touch it mate; wouldn't know what to do with it. Ain't ya got plastic?"

At last Marks & Spencer, Eurostore *par excellence*, at Finsbury Pavement in the City in the middle of their January sale. A £20 cotton shirt beckoned. The manageress consulted a volume of paper, it being the first example of the beast she had seen. "No problem sir; that will be €28. Yes, of course we accept euro travellers' cheques; our tills are all geared up for them, and you shall have your £30 change in sterling."

The sales assistant, Molly Ferguson, smiled charmingly. "That's fine, sir, no problem at all. Now, as it's a travellers' cheque, may I just see your passport?"

Ah. Um. Do you take Switch?



Alan Hamilton buys a shirt with euros at M&S

Gaullist rebel defies federal steamroller

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

CHARLES PASQUA, 71, the former French Interior Minister, will lead his own Eurosceptic list in the forthcoming European elections to campaign against the development of a federal Europe.

M Pasqua's decision to try to defend French sovereignty was a major act of rebellion by the veteran Gaullist, a central RPR figure for more than 20 years. He quit his place within the party leadership on the euro's launch. "We are abandoning both the franc and another slice of our national sovereignty," he said. "This new step towards a federal Europe, which I oppose, must not be done on the quiet and in defiance of what the people believe."

Punjab hail of bullets kills 16 in mosque

FROM KATHY GANNON IN ISLAMABAD AND KHALID TANVIR IN MULTAN

GUNMEN opened fire on Shia Muslims as they knelt in prayer at a mosque in eastern Punjab province yesterday, killing 16 people and wounding at least 25 others. Injured worshippers crawled to loudspeakers to plead for help. As many as 13 victims are believed to be critically hurt.

People struggled to find transport to get the wounded to the nearest hospital, about 12 miles away. Motorised rickshaws, horse-drawn carts and cars and buses were all commandered.

Many of the seriously hurt were taken to Nishter hospital in Multan, about 24 miles away. There a state of emergency had been declared and hundreds of Shia and Sunni Muslims gathered to give blood to help the victims.

Witnesses told of neighbours rushing to the mosque, grabbing small children and elderly men, cradling the dead and comforting the wounded.

"Blood was splattered all over the floor of the mosque," said a shaken Ehsan Karim, who runs a small roadside restaurant near by. "The wounded and the dead — all seemed to be piled on each other."

No one has taken responsibility for the killing, but police suspect rival Muslim militants. Witnesses said that the attack in Shah Jamal, about 180 miles south of the eastern Punjab provincial capital of Lahore, happened as worshippers were finishing morning prayers that marked the beginning of their day-long Ramadan fast.

"I heard the firing and then I heard people on the loudspeaker saying 'help me'. They were the wounded," said Ahsan Karim Shah, owner of a nearby hotel.

Tareen Bux, among those injured, described how the attackers came from behind. "We all were praying when bullets started hitting us from the back," he said at Nishter hospital. "I was hit by bullets and then fell unconscious . . . I don't know what happened afterwards." Some witnesses said the attackers fired as they sped past on motorcycles. Others described seeing three masked men speed away from the scene after the shooting. In the federal capital, Islamabad, Government and Opposition condemned the attack. *(AP)*

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MATI STEIN / AP

An Israeli security officer questions a Palestinian boy in Hebron yesterday

Hebron sealed off as gunmen wound settlers

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

CLASHES erupted in the divided West Bank town of Hebron yesterday after suspected Palestinian gunmen opened fire, wounding two Jewish women, one seriously.

Israeli troops sealed off the town after the attack and imposed a curfew on the 20 per cent of Palestinian residents in its centre. After the closure, fighting broke out and Israeli soldiers fired rubber-coated metal bullets at stone-throwing Palestinians youths, hitting one boy aged 13 in the head and another in the hand.

The two Israeli women were shot in their car as they drove near the Tomb of the Patriarchs — the traditional resting place of Abraham and Sarah and a shrine that is holy to both Muslims and Jews.

David Bar-Illan, the senior adviser to Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, condemned the shootings, saying that they made a mockery of the peace accords under which Palestinians and Jews were to refrain from violence.

Witnesses said the women, from the adjacent Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba, were on their way to work in Hebron when gunmen opened fire on the vehicle. "I came here and I saw the car riddled with bullets," said Mrs Orit Struk, one of about 400 Jewish residents who live and study in Hebron, surrounded by more than 100,000 Palestinians.

Although Hebron is now under Palestinian self-rule, Jewish residents are protected by Israeli soldiers under an 1997 agreement that, in effect, divided the town.

Noam Arnon, a Hebron Jewish settler leader, said the latest attack was more evidence that the Israeli Government should never have given security control over most of the city to the Palestinians.

The latest violence comes as negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians are frozen. Mr Netanyahu refuses to hand over more West Bank land until the Palestinians meet five conditions, including ending threats to declare an independent state in May.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Serb party expels chosen leader

Banja Luka: Brano Miljus, the Bosnian Serb Prime Minister-designate, has been expelled from his party three days after he was nominated by hardline President Poplasen of the country's Serb entity. But Mr Miljus dismissed the decision. The Independent Social Democrats are led by the incumbent Prime Minister, Milorad Dodik, backed by the West. The West claims that the plan to nominate Mr Miljus came from President Milosevic of Yugoslavia. The opposing hardline and moderate Bosnian Serb blocs each control about 30 seats in parliament and Mr Dodik has ruled with the support of Muslim and Croat MPs. *(Reuters)*

Israel deports cultists

Petah Tikva, Israel: Israel ordered the deportation of 11 Americans suspected of being members of a cult plotting violence to mark the millennium and hasten the Second Coming of Jesus. The leader of the Denver-based Concerned Christians, Monte Kim Miller, who has prophesied that he will die on the streets of Jerusalem this year, was not in Israel, police said. *(Reuters)*

Sihanouk trial pledge

Pailin, Cambodia: King Sihanouk said he would give up his royal immunity to appear before any tribunal to judge the Khmer Rouge. But prospects for a tribunal to try Khmer Rouge leaders for genocide looked dim with the comrades of Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea, who defected late last month, indicating they would resist any attempts to take them for trial. *(Reuters)*

DiCaprio film threat



Bangkok: People living in Phi Phi Island National Park threatened to sue Twentieth Century Fox and Thai officials for "destroying a fragile eco-system" to make a film starring Leonardo DiCaprio, left. Coconut trees have been planted and dunes shaped to make the film — an adaptation of Alec Garland's cult novel, *The Beach*. *(AFP)*

Bus hit by rocket

Mogadishu: At least 28 people were killed and ten wounded when an anti-tank rocket hit a bus near the southern Somali town of Baidoa. The attack was by the Rahanwein Resistance Army, which denied only civilians were on board and accused gunmen of firing on a checkpoint manned by the RRA, in conflict with the warlord Hussein Mohamed Aidid since 1995. *(AFP)*

Jail convoy ambushed

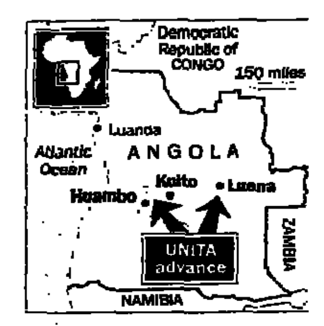
Johannesburg: Armed men in Soweto ambushed a police convoy, killing two policemen and enabling 21 prisoners who were being taken to court to escape. Four of them surrendered. Twenty prisoners broke out of Johannesburg jails over the Christmas holiday, but prison authorities say that they have cut escapes: there were 480 last year compared with 1,069 in 1997. *(AFP)*

Goldminers trapped

Jakarta: Nine illegal goldminers died and another 21 were missing after heavy rains set off a landslide at an Indonesian government-owned mine. It was the third fatal landslide since July at Pongkor mine near Bogor, about 50 miles southeast of here. Twenty people died in the other accidents. On Saturday, wooden props at an entrance collapsed, trapping miners inside. *(AP)*

Thousands at risk in siege by Unita forces

By Sam Kiley
Africa Correspondent



THOUSANDS face starvation and death after the United Nations suspension of flights to parts of Angola.

The UN action, ordered after two of its aircraft were shot down, has sparked fears that Unita rebels intend to overrun towns held by the Government and sheltering hundreds of thousands of refugees. The Union for the Total Independence of Angola appears ready to sacrifice thousands of civilian lives in its attempts to take Huambo as well as Luena in the east and Kuito, which is under siege.

The UN aircraft were shot down near Huambo, in the centre of the country, which has been under heavy attack by Unita for the past few weeks. It emerged yesterday that the son of the missing pilot of the first crashed aircraft was on board the second plane. Hilton Wilkinson, 25, was in Angola helping to find his missing father when his UN flight was shot down on Saturday. His father, John Wilkinson, has been missing since his UN C130 with 13 other people on board crashed in the same area on Boxing Day.

An aid worker in Luanda said yesterday: "There are about 150,000 residents and another 100,000 refugees who are in desperate need of food and medicines in Huambo. If we are unable to reach them, the chances are that they will perish."

Huambo is close to the headquarters of Dr Jonas Savimbi and his rebels at Andolo and Bailundo.

Unita, rearmed and retrained under the noses of the UN's observers since 1994 when Dr Savimbi pledged to demobilise his private army, has launched an offensive on a bewildering number of fronts.

Aided, according to security sources, by retired white South African generals acting as "mercenary consultants", Unita's fronts have closed in on Kuito and are starting to throw a noose round Luena. Cut off from ground supply lines by the rebels, hundreds of thousands of civilians face daily bombardment by Unita's long-range artillery and mortars. In 1993, Kuito was reduced to rubble during a six-month siege that killed thousands of people and resulted in international outrage.

Now that Unita has been blamed for shooting down two UN aircraft, it is clear that Dr Savimbi has lost interest entirely in making friends externally. Rather, he has opted to frighten aid agencies out of the skies, which leaves the government troops and civilian populations at his mercy.

There have also been reports that his men have been murdering priests, teachers, administration officials and other educated people in the east of the country in what one security source described as a "Pol Pot-style Year Zero".



AP

John Wilkinson, left, the South African UN pilot missing in Angola, and his son Hilton, who is also missing

Combat role for women

By Roger Maynard
in Sydney

THE prospect of Australian women being ordered into hand-to-hand combat alongside men came a step closer yesterday after the Chief of the Defence Staff agreed that women could no longer be excluded from the front line.

But Admiral Chris Barry's views were condemned by old soldiers' organisations; they said women did not have the physique to serve in such roles.

Bruce Ruxton, president of the Returned Services League in Victoria, said that such a move would be unacceptable to most Australians. "It would be a sad day if this country started to put women into the front line ... they just couldn't cope with the infantry," he said.

Colonel Keith Jobson, Director-General of Public Affairs for the Australian Defence Force, moved to play down the row, saying that deploying women in combat roles was still some time away.

Fatwa dampens Saudi rulers' celebrations

By Michael Binyon, Diplomatic Editor

SAUDI ARABIA'S top religious leader has dealt a blow to the country's elaborate preparations for the centenary of the ruling dynasty by issuing a fatwa condemning the proposed celebrations as heresy.

Mufti Abdul Aziz Abdallah ibn Baz, the senior religious leader, said the plans for the extensive festivities later this month to mark the 100th anniversary of the capture of Riyadh by Abdul Aziz al-Saud, founder of the kingdom, were an imitation of non-believers.

Pamphlets circulating in Riyadh underlined the reservations of the conservative religious establishment to the elaborate festivities. Riyadh was captured in 1902, and the centenary falls this year according to Islamic lunar calculations. Saudi Arabia was formally founded in 1932 by ibn Saud, who unified most of the Arabian peninsula, and all its subsequent Kings have been his sons.

The intensely conservative Muslim establishment of the central region, including Riyadh, recognises only two festivals: Eid al-Fitr, marking the end of Ramadan, and Eid al-Adha, commemorating the sacrifice of a ram by Ibraham, the prophet known to Jews and Christians as Abraham.

Saudi Arabia is making much of the anniversary, and in the next two months has organised a series of ceremonies and public celebrations to which the country's civil and religious leaders as well as foreign guests have been invited.

In Riyadh a big construction project will celebrate Saudi history at a cost of some £100 million. It aims to restore cultural, economic and administrative activities, and revive architecture in an area that has suffered from economic and physical decay. It will include a new national museum, a landscaped park, renovated mud buildings and a new library and auditorium.

The opposition of conservatives to these secular celebrations has already forced the Government to tone down the festivities. Decorations and coloured lights have been removed from the shops. The Government has also cited the celebrations as a reason for pulling out of the Asian Games in Thailand.

'Decorations and coloured lights have vanished from shop windows'

The Saudi Government is extremely sensitive to criticism by senior Muslim clergy, but has taken tough measures to suppress the fundamentalist preachers, especially around Riyadh, who have denounced the ruling family and criticised Saudi Arabia's friendly relations with the West.

The fatwa, first issued three years ago by the Grand Mufti, also condemns the holding of birthday parties and exchanging presents on events such as birthdays or the opening of shops and schools. The same applied to companies and institutions marking anniversaries. Copies have been stuck on walls and at the entrances to mosques in the past week.

Death row Filipino wins a reprieve

From Abby Tan
in Manila

A RAPIST condemned to die was saved at the eleventh hour yesterday by a Philippines Supreme Court decision to postpone the execution — provoking an angry response from President Estrada, but delighting opponents of capital punishment.

The court order suspended the execution of Leo Echegaray, a house painter, until June 15 in response to a petition by his lawyers on the ground that legislators wanted to debate the death penalty.

Hundreds of death row prisoners who had been holding a prayer vigil for two days erupted into applause when the news came, three hours before he was due to die. Priests praying at a makeshift chapel 500 yards from the execution chamber jumped in the air. Nuns and activists burst into a religious song, their eyes brimming with tears. His wife of a week, Zenaida, fainted.

Earlier Echegaray had broken down and cried repeatedly while confessing to a priest and hearing Mass in the execution chamber.

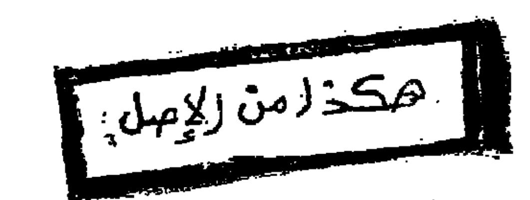


Echegaray: wept in the execution chamber

In all 864 people are on death row. Among them are three foreigners, including Albert Ernest Wilson, 46, of Kent, convicted in October of raping his 12-year-old stepdaughter. He is appealing against his conviction.

The last-minute decision aborted the country's first execution in 22 years. The death penalty was abolished in 1987 but restored in 1994 amid popular clamour after a spate of spectacular crimes involving murders and rapes.

Echegaray, 38, was sentenced for the 1996 rape of his daughter, then 11. He was to be executed by lethal injection at 3pm and had been taken to the death chamber to be prepared for the execution.



President snubs call to delay address

By Bronwen Maddox in Washington

THE White House yesterday turned a cold shoulder to calls for President Clinton to postpone his State of the Union address if the Senate has not finished his impeachment trial.

The Senate, which convenes tomorrow, looks set to begin on Monday the historic trial on whether to remove Mr Clinton from office after his impeachment last month by the House of Representatives.

As preparations gather steam, Republican Senate leaders, who have been among Mr Clinton's bitter critics, are appalled at the political risk to their party of a long-drawn-out fight, which still appears to lack public support.

For weeks Trent Lott, the Senate's Majority Leader, has been working with Tom Daschle, leader of the Democratic minority, to drum up support for a "circuit-breaker" to allow the impeachment debate to be cut short quickly.

They want a quick recitation of the facts, no witnesses, and an immediate vote. But even though the party whips reckon opposition to Mr Clinton in the Senate falls far short of the two thirds needed to oust him from office, conservatives are insisting on a full-scale trial.

"I would be very sceptical of bypassing what I think is our constitutional duty to have a full airing of the evidence," said Republican Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas. Conservatives were yesterday campaigning against the suggestion of a "test vote" on whether Mr Clinton's offences justified his removal from office, as a device to cut the trial short.

With the length of the trial still unclear, leading senators from both parties called on Mr Clinton to delay his annual address to the American people, delivered in front of both houses of Congress, currently scheduled for January 19.

Washington wives make bid for power

From Damian Whitworth in Washington

THE clearest indications yet were given yesterday that Hillary Clinton plans to launch her own political career as preparations continued for her husband's Senate trial.

A senior Democratic senator suggested that Mrs Clinton will leave the White House before the end of her husband's term to make a new home in New York from where she will run for the Senate. A magazine also reported a conversation in which President Clinton suggested she should run for office from the same state.

The revelations came as Elizabeth Dole, the wife of Bob Dole, Mr Clinton's Republican opponent in the 1996 presidential election, announced at a press conference last night that she was resigning as president of the American Red Cross. This is seen as a precursor to her own run for the White House.

Robert Torricelli, the New Jersey senator and head of the Democratic Senate Campaign Committee, said that he believed Mrs Clinton would take up residency in New York before her husband's term ends to run for the seat vacated by Daniel Patrick Moynihan, the distinguished Democrat who is retiring in 2000. He made his comments off-camera to Tim Russert of NBC's *Meet the Press*, who later disclosed the "mini bombshell".



Hillary Clinton: "To quit White House early"

Mrs Clinton's office maintained its stance of dismissing reports about her future as speculation. But *Vanity Fair* yesterday released advance copies of a forthcoming 15,000-word report on the Clintons' marriage which included an account of a fundraising dinner in the Hamptons last summer. When Mrs Clinton's speech was drowned out by applause, Mr Clinton reportedly turned to Judith Hope, chairwoman of the New York State Democratic Party, and said: "They really love her in New York," to which Ms Hope replied: "She owns New York." Mr Clinton: "Maybe she should consider running for office in New York." Ms Hope: "Well, that's what I think."

There has been talk of Mrs Clinton running for the seat since Mr Moynihan announced his retirement last year. During the November election campaign, with her popularity at an all-time high, she helped Charles Schumer to beat Alfonse D'Amato, the Republican, in the other New York Senate seat and has spent a conspicuous amount of time socialising in the city.

The *Vanity Fair* article, by Gail Sheehy, also gives new insights into how Mrs Clinton keeps going in the face of embarrassing disclosures about her husband's affair with Monica Lewinsky. In a rare interview, her mother, Dorothy Rodham, said: "She was able to do this because she had a commitment to her daughter — somebody outside of her own problems that she was being strong and positive for."

After talking to 50 of the Clintons' closest friends and aides, Sheehy concluded that Mrs Clinton continued to stand by her husband because she loves him, recognises him as an emotionally battered child, and relishes her role as his protector. He is also her one "addiction".

RON KUNTZ / REUTERS



Elizabeth Dole, the wife of Bob Dole, who has announced that she is resigning as president of the American Red Cross in order to launch a political career

Midwife adds fuel to Clinton birth row

By Damian Whitworth

THE lingering mystery over the identity of President Clinton's father took a new twist yesterday after the midwife who delivered him contradicted his mother's account of his birth.

Mr Clinton was brought up to believe that he was fathered by Bill Blythe, a travelling salesman and accused bigamist, who was killed in a car accident two months before the future President was born. But Mr Clinton's biographer, David Maraniss, discovered that there were whispers about his parentage in his home town of Hope, Arkansas, at the time of his birth because nine months earlier Blythe had still been serving in the army in Italy.

The author was contacted by the family of a Louisiana man who appeared to have been having an affair with Virginia, President Clinton's free-spirited mother, at the time of his conception. She dismissed the gossip by saying that young Bill was born prematurely after she had suffered a fall.

But when *Vanity Fair* tracked down Wilma Booker, the nurse whom President Clinton apparently used to refer to as "the first person to spank my butt", she denied he was born prematurely. "Not at that weight."

The former midwife added: "I remember he was a nice size baby, between eight and nine pounds."

Iraq makes veiled threats to the safety of UN Britons

From James Bone in New York

IRAQ, in a fresh challenge to London and Washington, informed the United Nations yesterday that it could no longer guarantee the safety of British and American staff working on UN humanitarian projects in the country. Iraqi diplomats delivered the veiled threat in an "aide memoire" after being pressed by the UN to supply written clarification of earlier verbal warnings in Baghdad.

The letter, not even written on official notepaper, explained that the Iraqi Government could not protect British and American relief workers in the wake of the two nations' airstrikes last month. Western diplomats ridiculed the idea that Iraq, a police state, could not protect UN staff if it wanted to. "It's a nuanced way of saying 'Get them out of the country'," one diplomat said.

UN officials sought to play down the confrontation, but said the dispute was being taken "very seriously". The UN has traditionally insisted that it has the right to select its international staff. When Iraq objected to American nationals serving in the country with the UN Special Commission in 1997, the UN responded by withdrawing all its weapons inspectors of whatever nationality. Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, now faces a difficult decision of whether to bend to Iraq's threats and pull out the British and American staff. His aides were due to brief the Security Council last night to gauge its reaction. The UN has about 420 international staff in Iraq working for various UN agencies and administering the "oil-for-food" programme that allows Baghdad to sell limited quantities of oil to finance purchases of food, medicine and other humanitarian supplies. A total of 12 Britons and one American are said to be affected by Iraq's warning — although about eight of them are thought to be outside the country on leave. Five of the Britons are employed in a mine clearance project in the three Kurdish-controlled northern governorates, but still require entry visas from Baghdad. Several of the other British staff work as inspectors monitoring Iraq's oil exports. UN officials say Baghdad has not objected to two Britons working for UN agencies in the government-run part of the country, nor to a secretary with a top UN official in Baghdad. The warning also did not seem to extend to British staff of Lloyd's Register who oversee imports of humanitarian supplies at border crossings.

☐ No-fly zones: Iraqi aircraft probed the edges of the US-enforced no-fly zones over Iraq during the past several days without drawing retaliatory attacks by US warplanes, a Pentagon official said yesterday. The incursions were the latest in a series of Iraqi challenges to the no-fly zones in the wake of last month's four-day "Desert Fox" air campaign by US and British forces. "There have been instances in the past several days of Iraqi aircraft attempting to fly on the edge of the no-fly zone and even entering the no-fly zone for brief periods," said the Pentagon official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. The White House said the US would continue to enforce the no-fly zones. "It is an important part of our containment policy limiting his [Saddam's] ability to threaten his neighbours and repress his own people," said Joe Lockhart, a White House spokesman. *(AFP)*


CHRIS HARRIS

Jennifer Turnbull first met her natural father when he was 71. Only her knowledge of the phenomenon of genetic sexual attraction enabled her to overcome his mixed emotions

Forbidden desires

When **Jennifer Turnbull** met her natural father, she was shocked to discover that he was attracted to her

I *remember meeting my* natural father for the first time at Gatwick airport: a few hours snatched between flights. It was a highly charged event, particularly as his wife was with him and I felt like the other woman in an affair. I wanted him to accept me and acknowledge that I was a successful person in my own right and that he had every reason to be proud of me even though he had no part in my upbringing. The second meeting, in San Francisco, was a much more relaxed occasion. We had already sized each other up mentally and physically, so I did not have the same feelings of anticipation. Since we would be alone, I planned to ask the questions I couldn't ask at our first meeting. Did he love my mother, who gave me up for adoption and who died before I could meet her? What was she like?

He had booked two rooms in an hotel, in the centre of town. As I checked in I realised that the hotel staff thought that we were having a relationship. I was told that "my friend" had already checked in and was directed to the room. A bay cruise followed by dinner outside the hotel did little to dispel the myth that something was afoot.

We were joking about this when my father, a 71-year-old doctor, said that he was sexually attracted to me. He then asked if I felt the same. I was shocked, disgusted and embarrassed that this man should be expressing such inappropriate feelings towards me. I managed to blurt out that I couldn't think of him in that way because he was my father. It was then that I remembered that the social worker had mentioned similar cases. There was even a name for this seemingly incestuous desire — genetic sexual attraction (GSA). The rest of our meeting passed without event. We managed to salvage an amicable relationship, and never referred to the subject again.

A social worker later explained that for my natural father, my birth mother — with whom he had enjoyed a brief affair — was frozen in his memory as an attractive young woman. Meeting me was like seeing my birth mother again, with all the feelings that he had had for her at that time. But the explanation, sensible as it sounded, did not put me completely at ease. I needed to know if other people had had similar experiences. I wondered whether I had inadvertently caused this to happen. I had been careful about my appearance, but that was all part of wanting to be accepted.

It is now recognised that many adopted people can have similar feelings about either one or both parents, or about a birth brother or sister, when they meet for the first time. If someone wants to trace a relative and contacts an organisation such as the Post Adoption Centre, they will probably learn about it.

"It is impossible to get accurate figures but from people I have interviewed and the reactions I have had after talking on the subject, genetic sexual attraction seems to be very common," says Dr Maurice Greenberg, consultant psychiatrist and psychotherapist at University College London, and adviser to the Post Adoption Centre.

"The experiences range from an intense sexualised feeling and wanting a relationship, to simply fancying their relative. It can happen between any combination of relatives, and can be heterosexual or homosexual."

One theory, he says, is that people are attracted to people similar to themselves. "People are often struck by how similar their long-lost relative is," Dr Greenberg says. "They comment on faces, manner, attitudes and, very commonly, smell. Many say that the reunion was like looking in a mirror."

This implies that incest should be fairly common. Indeed, Dr Greenberg believes that there is "probably some sexualised behaviour in families, especially between siblings". Boredom, however, sets in well before such feelings can be consummated. The rarity of sexual relationships between relatives may also be due to a strong incest taboo.

Despite the passionate and complex emotions involved, it is also rare for reunions to result in physical relationships. What remains for some time, however, is a magnetic pull, which resembles the excitement of falling in love.

While I did not share this experience when I met my father, I remember feeling as if I was out on a date. I wasn't physically attracted to him, but I wanted to impress, I wanted him to like me and yet I didn't want to touch or be touched.

How would Dr Greenberg react if one of his patients chose to embark on such a relationship? "I would try to take the morality out of the situation," he says. "If it is a parent-child relationship, I would point out that the parent was not fulfilling their parental duty by encouraging it. I would warn them of the dangers — the greatest likelihood is that it will all end in tears, with a lot of pain and upset. I would discourage it but I wouldn't want to close the door so that they couldn't come back and talk."

Genetic sexual attraction is little discussed outside support groups and psychology research papers. The proximity to incest makes it a delicate subject to discuss and yet it has social, psychological and anthropological significance. Being aware of this phenomenon was without doubt the most important preparation I could have had for my reunion. Had I not known of it, I am sure that I would not have wanted to continue the relationship or even the evening together.

Now, however, we remain on good terms, and I can finally learn about the father I thought I would never know.

A new, safer substitute for HRT

MEDICINE CHEST
DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

IF THE medicine cabinet was to include all the useful drugs introduced in 1998, a bumper year for pharmaceutical research, it would be difficult to close its doors. Somewhere in the medicine chest there may well be Viagra, the hallmark drug of 1998, but it is a safe bet that the pale blue, diamond-shaped tablets will be buried away from prying eyes. If the master of the house has not had his potency confirmed with Viagra, the inquisitive may be tempted to search among the butter in the refrigerator for MUSE, the recently introduced intra-urethral pellet which is also a useful treatment for erectile dysfunction.

Researchers have not devoted all their efforts to male problems. One of the great advances in 1998 was the introduction of the first SERM. This is the rather unattractive acronym — selective oestrogen receptor modulator — used to describe a compound that produces some oestrogen-like effects but in other ways does not act as an oestrogen at all or, if it does, acts in a clinically insignificant way. Evista (raloxifene) is the first SERM and it is hoped that it will have many of the oestrogenic advantages of HRT without some of its major drawbacks.

The casualty rate from osteoporosis in the form of fractured hips, wrists or vertebrae is unacceptably high and makes osteoporosis one of the leading killers. However, a MORI poll commissioned by Breakthrough Breast Cancer in September 1998 showed that women's foremost health anxiety was breast cancer. This fear prevented some women from taking HRT to the detriment of their bones, their hearts and their arteries (and perhaps, too, to their intellect in old age, as there is a suggestion that low oestrogen levels are associated with an increased incidence of Alzheimer's).

The search has therefore been on for a preparation, an SERM, that would protect the bones and arteries but would not adversely affect the breasts. The initial trials of Evista showed that it increased bone density in between 60 and 70 per cent of users. The increased rate was slightly less than would be expected from the use of standard HRT but the risk of vertebral fracture was reduced by more than 40 per cent, which was similar to that of HRT. The latest trial has shown, in fact, that after three years the chances of a woman taking Evista having a vertebral fracture are reduced by 55 per cent. If she has had one fracture already, the chances of her having another are reduced by 30 per cent.

Evista also causes changes in blood fat levels, which are likely to lead to a reduction in cardiovascular disease. The overall cholesterol goes down but, even more importantly, the level of low-density lipoprotein cholesterol, which causes the damage to the arterial wall, is appreciably reduced, as is the level of another clotting agent — fibrinogen. HRT may have a deleterious effect on the lining of the uterus but this is not observed in those taking an SERM. Likewise, those taking Evista are not troubled by cyclical vaginal bleeding.

There is no effective drug with no side-effects. An appreciable minority of patients taking Evista will notice some degree of hot flushes, and a much smaller number will have an increased incidence of leg cramps and puffy feet. A rare but more serious side-effect is the greater likelihood, as with HRT, of clots and hence emboli from the veins.

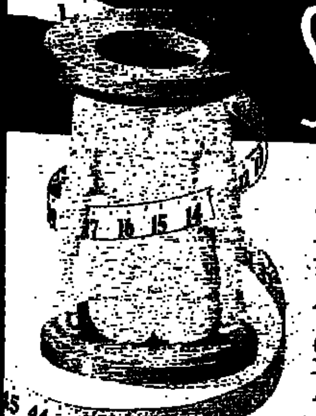
The best news about this SERM is that, despite its oestrogenic effect in bone strengthening and cholesterol reduction, Evista seems to have no adverse effect on the breasts — in fact, much the contrary. At a conference just before Christmas, Professor Craig Jordan of the Northwestern University Medical School, Illinois, gave the results of treating 10,000 post-menopausal women with Evista for more than three years. There was a 63 per cent reduction in the incidence of newly diagnosed invasive breast cancers, and a 55 per cent overall reduction in both newly diagnosed invasive and non-invasive breast cancer.

ARTS
Richard Cork on Rachel Whiteread's controversial new exhibition
Pages 31-33

هكذا من الإهمال

THE NEW DIET REVOLUTION

You'll never be fat again



SLIM FOREVER

In the second extract from his new book, **Dr Robert C. Atkins** reveals how dieters can eat fat, have second helpings and still lose weight

Our physical urges are hard to combat. Fighting the scales armed only with willpower and determination works, at best, for only five low-fat dieters out of 100. But the Atkins programme bypasses the need to rely on willpower — you'll be able to lose weight even while eating *second and third helpings of traditional main courses.*

This diet works for several reasons: first, it creates more fat mobilisation than any other regime. Sheer hunger is behind most diet failure, but a low-carbohydrate programme is not austere — the main austerity is the abandonment of sugar and such refined carbohydrates as white flour, but most people find that, once they shake off the sugar addiction, they feel no strong desire to go back to it.

Furthermore, this diet is healthy. I found this out when I first put patients on it 25 years ago, and they began to recover from a whole range of conditions, such as yeast infection, hypoglycaemia and food intolerances. Some people believe that the Atkins diet is bad for the heart — we all know that cream, butter and red meat causes heart attacks, and that these will make symptoms worse. But I'm a cardiologist by training, and have spent a lot of my life treating cardiac patients, and almost from the first moment that I began using the diet I saw the good effect it had on my patients.

Admittedly, some individuals are fat-sensitive and will develop a less favourable cholesterol level on a high-fat diet than on a low-fat diet. But there is a fixation on the idea that, if fat and cholesterol are eaten, cholesterol levels will surely rise. The consensus is that any fat must not amount to more than 30 per cent of our *total intake.* And if our most eminent scientists seem to be in accord, then we ordinary people must conclude that there is incontrovertible evidence that eating the amount of fat we as a nation do *is* harmful to our health. We cannot but accept that low-fat diet and healthy diet are equivalents. But are they?

Certainly low-fat diets and satisfying diets aren't equivalents: fat has earned its high place in the cuisines of the world because of its satisfying taste, richness and capacity to satiate appetite. But the assertion that eating a significant percentage of fat in your diet *will take you briskly down the* road to heart disease and cancer is simplistic. Medical studies cast serious doubt on these claims. Population studies that show an association between high fat and heart disease are, simultaneously, studies showing that diets high in refined carbohydrates are associated with heart disease, and with cancer.

Scale down on carbohydrates

Anyway, the Atkins diet is not about eating fat all the time. I have always maintained that, as the work of the British nutritionist Dr John Yudkin illustrated, as a rule people eat considerably less fat on a ketogenic/lipolytic diet than they do on their usual fare. That is a direct result of one of fat's greatest virtues — ie, when carbohydrates are restricted fat causes a profound induction of satiety; in other words, you're less hungry.

Then there is physical appearance. Have you ever studied the features of one of today's "successful" low-fat dieters? True, their bodies look great, but examine their faces. Do you see the dry skin, the pastiness of the complexion and the deep furrows in the lines that extend from the side of the nose to the side of the mouth? Atkins dieters do not get that look.

Once you have completed the Induction part of the Atkins plan, the next stage is the Ongoing Weight Loss (OWL) diet. On the former you were on the strictest level of low-carbohydrate dieting, consuming 15 to 20 grams of carbohydrate. The diet was extremely low to demonstrate lipolysis for everybody, from the person who can lose weight quite easily on almost any diet to the hardest case. This next stage is a somewhat more liberalised version of the diet. Here you will find out the most liberal level of carbohydrates you can consume but still continue taking off excess pounds — your critical carbohydrate level for losing (CCLL).

There are two ways to determine your CCLL. You can find the actual number by increasing the quantity of carbohydrate you eat beyond that one salad you ate on the Induction level. As you carry out this increase, measure the grams of carbohydrate in each of your additions. Eventually you'll reach a number at which you stop losing — your CCLL. Your CCLL will be 45 grams, or 32, or maybe 19. Above it, you lose no more, or you begin to gain. Below it, you're losing weight.

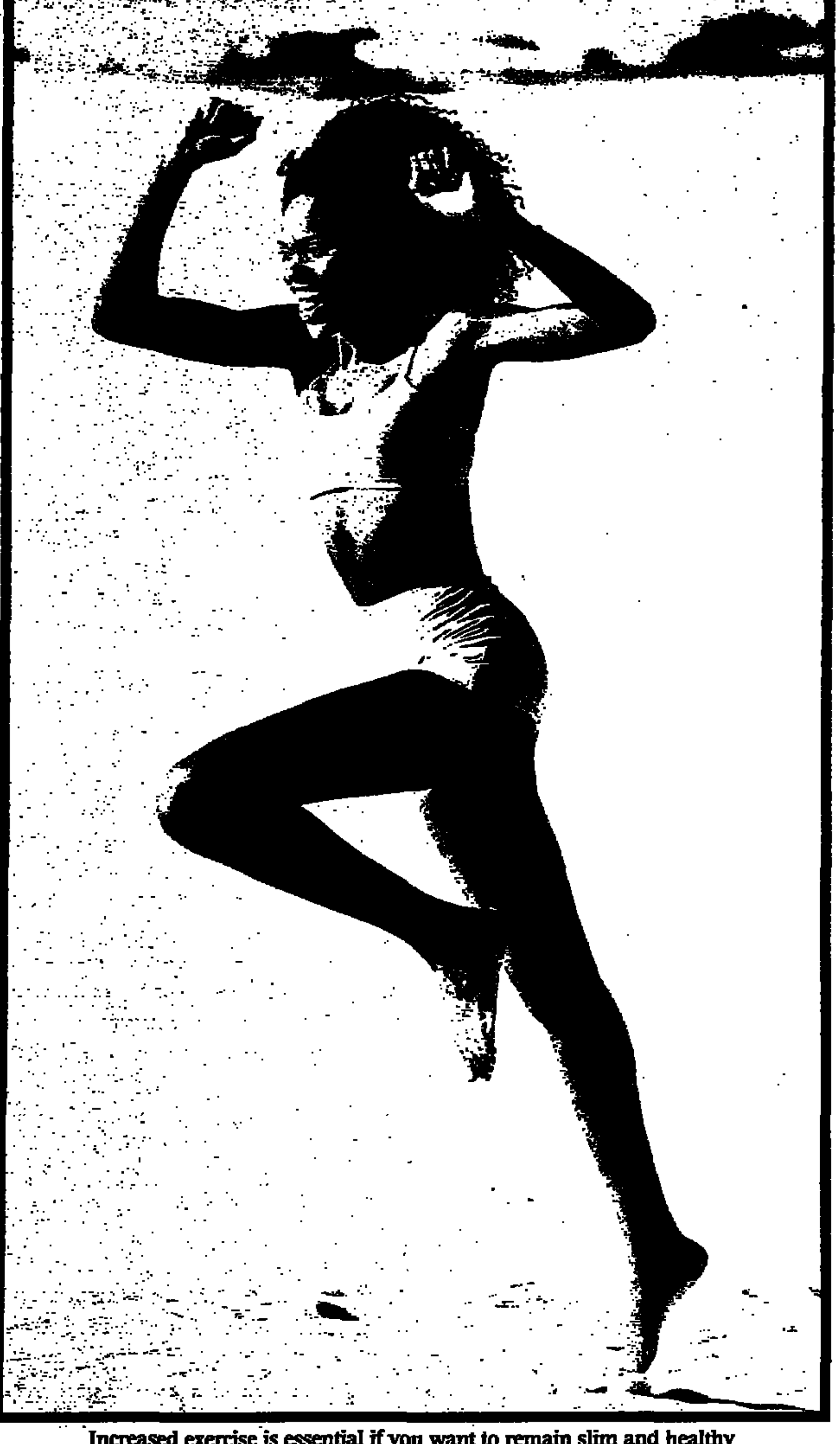
The other way to calculate your CCLL is to increase your carbohydrate consumption steadily until your weight loss becomes imperceptible. You'll see roughly how much salad and vegetables you're eating and, as long as you have a good eye for constant quantities, you'll be all right.

One warning: everyone hits plateaux, when no weight comes off. The first few periods in which you fail to lose weight will most likely be plateaux and almost never represent the *reaching of the CCLL. To identify your CCLL,* you must ascertain that you are neither losing pounds nor inches for several weeks. (At a later stage of the diet, when you've lost almost all the desired weight, you pass from the Ongoing Weight Loss diet, through the important Pre-Maintenance phase, and go on to the Maintenance diet. At that point there will be another *landmark* level: your critical carbohydrate level for Maintenance will be the highest number of grams of carbohydrate you can consume without gaining back weight. For most now-slim Atkins dieters, that number will range from 25 to 90 grams a day.)

A small percentage will stop losing weight after reaching 20 to 25 grams of carbohydrate daily. If you're one of these, *you'll have to adapt to eating* not much more carbohydrate than is on the Induction diet. And to stay slim and healthy, increased exercise — which I strongly recommend — is essential. If you are over 35, consult your GP before undertaking any exercise more strenuous than brisk walking.

● *Extracted from* Dr Atkins' New Diet Revolution, *published by Vermilion at £6.99.* Times *readers can order it, free of postage/packaging, by calling* The Times *Bookshop, 0990 134459. Copyright Dr Robert C. Atkins 1999*

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Increased exercise is essential if you want to remain slim and healthy

CARBOHYDRATE GRAM COUNTER

FOOD	GRAMS	CARBOHYDRATE
NUTS		
Almonds	12-15 nuts	4
Brazil	4 nuts	2
Cashews	30g/1oz	8
Hazelnuts	30g/1oz	5
Macadamia	30g/1oz	3
Peanuts	30g/1oz	5
Pumpkin seeds	30g/1oz	4
Sunflower seeds	30g/1oz	6
Walnuts	30g/1oz	4
GRAINS		
Pumpernickel bread	1 slice	13
Wholemeal bread	1 slice	14
Bagel	1	30
Rice (cooked)	150g/5½oz	50
(puffed)	30g/1oz	13
Noodles (cooked)	110g/4oz	37
Muesli (sugar-free)	40g/1½oz	16
Porridge oats (cooked with water)	60g/2oz	18
BEANS (COOKED)		
Haricot	200g/7oz	34
Split peas	230g/8oz	52
Tofu	100g/3½oz	6
Red kidney beans	100g/3½oz	30
FATS AND OILS		
Olive, vegetable, butter etc		0
HERBS AND SPICES		
Basil	1tsp	1
Coriander	1tsp	0.5
Garlic clove	1tsp	1
Thyme	1tsp	1
Tarragon	1tsp	0.5
Vanilla	1tsp	3
Ginger root (fresh)	30g/1oz	3
Ginger root (ground)	1tsp	2

RATE-WATCHING

NOW that you're liberalising the diet, you should expect to see a gradual decrease in your rate of loss. The rate will also be slower, as on any diet, as you near your ideal weight. Plan to take two or more months to shed the last ten pounds. This will put you on the next stage: the Pre-Maintenance level.

Meanwhile, remember that some common foods have surprising amounts of carbohydrate. A grapefruit has around 20 grams, an apple only slightly less. Measure that against the fact that some 40 per cent of metabolically overweight women can't lose unless they eat less than 30 grams of carbohydrate a day! Those, then, are foods that you may have to eat in great moderation — there will be time enough to try them on the Maintenance diet.

MEAL PLANNER IDEAS FOR THE ONGOING DIET

BREAKFAST

May include 90ml (3fl oz) of V-8 juice or tomato juice, 60g (2oz) onion rings pan-fried to a crisp, 1 slice of a 4-5g crispbread, 1 slice fresh orange (5mm/ ¼ in thick) as a garnish, 2 slices of buttered and toasted diet bread – 3 eggs, separated, 2 tbsp soured cream, 30g (1oz) melted butter, 40g (1oz) soya flour, 1tbsp baking powder. Preheat oven to 180C/350F/Gas Mark 4. Combine yolks with ingredients. Beat egg whites until stiff, fold into mixture. Cook in buttered bread pan for 50 minutes. Store in fridge. (Total grams 18.) Decaffeinated cappuccino.

LUNCH

Prawn and crabmeat or tuna mayonnaise in a fresh tomato or in ½ an avocado; pizza (using 4 pancakes: stack in twos, cover stack with 1tbsp unsweetened tomato sauce, 45g (1¼ oz) mozzarella cheese, sliced medium tomato and 30g (1oz) grated Parmesan cheese. Grill. Two servings, with carb. grams of 11.5 each); guacamole, chicken salad.

DINNER

Starters and soups: avocado cream soup (1 medium avocado, 470ml (17fl oz) whipping cream, 230ml/ (8fl oz) water, ½ tsp celery salt, ½ small clove garlic, minced, 8 slices streaky bacon cooked crisp. Peel avocado and pit. Liquidise with cream, water, salt, and garlic. Cook over medium heat for 5 minutes, stirring constantly. Garnish with bacon, guacamole.

Main courses: poached salmon; fried fillet of sea bass with leeks and tomatoes; sauerkraut with a variety of cooked meats; beef stroganoff; coq au vin. Side dishes: broccoli frittata, Brussels sprouts, crisped.

Desserts: Fruit jelly; vanilla ice-cream; lemon mousse (all made with sugar substitute).

Snacks: Swiss snack – 110g (4oz) Emmenthal cheese, cubed into eight: wrap each cube in ½ slice streaky bacon and deep-fry in very hot oil for 30 seconds. (Total grams: 4.1)

METABOLIC RESISTANCE

NOT EVERYONE loses weight with the same ease, even when following a low-carbohydrate diet.

For people with high metabolic resistance — those who find it harder to lose weight — their critical carbohydrate level for losing (CCLL) will be 15 grams of carbohydrate a day or less, and rise to 25 to 40 grams on the Maintenance diet.

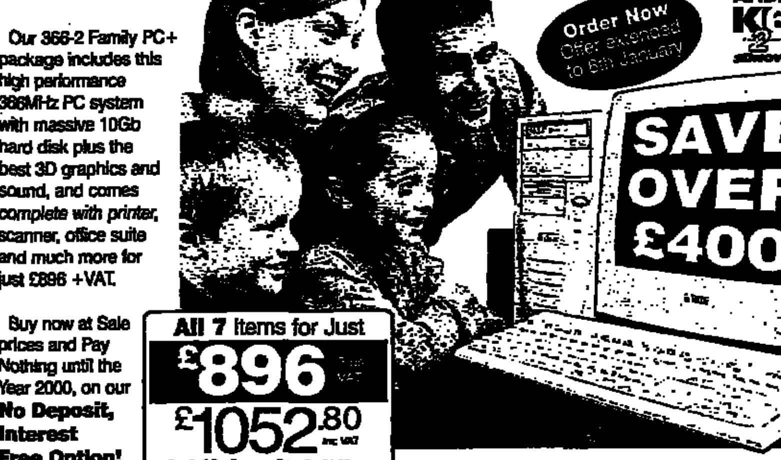
For average metabolic resistance, the CCLL is 15 to 40, and will rise to 40 to 60. For low metabolic resistance, the CCLL is 40 to 60, and the maintenance level 60 to 90. When the diet works too well, and the weight loss is too rapid (ie, exceeding one pound a day), you might develop slightly debilitating symptoms or weakness, presumably caused by sodium or potassium shifts. These can be corrected by the simple measure of tripling or quadrupling the vegetable intake and slowing the weight loss down.

Another problem that people occasionally experience are leg cramps during the night — this is caused by a rapid excretion of calcium and almost invariably indicates that the dieter has not followed the recommendations on vitamins.

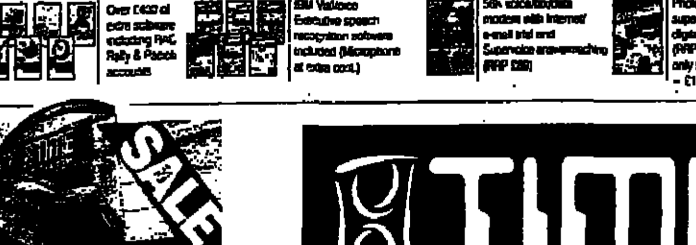
TOMORROW
How to beat your cravings and avoid binges













The award winning PC manufacturer that's the UK's largest PC retailer



Tony takes a walk on the Wilde side

The Third Way has always led to ruin, says Michael Gove

The Third Way has claimed its third victim. Charlie Whelan, like Geoffrey Robinson and Peter Mandelson before him, has become a victim of Blairism.

The traditional approach to impropriety in high places, the First Way, exemplified by Peter Carrington after the Falklands invasion, was to admit wrongdoing and resign. The Second Way, being tried by Bill Clinton at the moment, is to deny the charge and then tough it out. The Third Way, we can now see, involves a vigorous denial of any impropriety. And then resignation.

It transcends traditional boundaries, not of Right and Left, but right and wrong. Not since Christmas 2,000 years ago, we are asked to believe, has there been such a massacre of the Innocents.

Peter and Geoffrey did nothing wrong, but they had to go. Charlie didn't tell anyone what Peter and Geoffrey did, and in any case it wasn't, of course, wrong. But he has to go. The only people who have done something wrong are the press. Why, one hears Mr Blair sigh on the Equator, don't they just go and . . .

Before, however, we succumb to the temptation to sympathise with the Prime Minister we should realise that he has no one to blame but himself. Charlie Whelan may have been a wasting asset ever since he was filmed by Scottish Television boasting of how he misled the press. Nemesis may have been inevitable for the man who was, according to one No 10 source, "a little oik". But only a bad workman blames his fools.

The High Priest of the Third Way is himself at fault. For two things. His "project" is driven by calculation, not principle, and his Government in consequence operates as a court, not an enterprise.

The "project" to which Blairites refer, and which John Prescott treats with the same wary disdain as a long-clawed Japanese crab, is easily explained. The Blairite aim is the realignment of British politics. The "project" requires Labour to win a second term and involves the adoption of the euro, the re-engineering of the constitution and the absorption of the Liberal Democrats to create a natural "centre-left" majority on continental lines.

It is both ambitious and limited. It is ambitious in that it seeks to alter the political geography of Britain as comprehensively as any Sixties planner changed the geography of our cities. But it is limited in that it does not seek, as Margaret Thatcher, Clement Attlee, or even William Gladstone did with their huge majorities, to apply consistent ideological principle to the challenges of the age. It is about entrenching a clique's hold on power, not advancing policies for the nation.

Mr Blair is, of course, aware that he should have a philosophy, much as Oscar Wilde was aware that he needed a wife. He finds it hard to be passionate about the idea, but respectable opinion makes it necessary. And so we have the Third Way. Oscar Wilde tried that, too, neither old bachelor nor new man but something quite novel. And we know where that ended.

The Third Way in foreign policy has meant neither waging war to remove Saddam, nor constructive engagement with Iraq, but bombing him just enough to rally his people. It has meant neither ending arms exports, nor defending them, but combining their sale with lectures on ethics. Robin Cook is reduced to acting as though he were Mr Pecksniff turned pornographer.

At home it has meant neither privatising the Post Office, nor preserving its current value to the Treasury, but a spatchcock policy pithily summed up by a man called Balls as, well, just that. It has led to a policy in Northern Ireland which leaves the Province neither wholly British nor really Irish. It is, instead, awash with armed thugs responsible last year for hundreds of unpunished mutilations. More Sicilian, perhaps, than anything else.

In this absence of a clear philosophical lead, with something to believe in, Labour politicians have tried to find someone to believe in. Factions cluster around magnates for advancement.

> The Blair 'project' is simply a clique clinging to power

If you want to understand the Blair Government there is no need to engage a lobbying firm stuffed with former apparatchiks. Just go to the library for a copy of Alison Weir's *Lancaster and York: The Wars of the Roses*. Its depiction of England under Henry VI uncannily prefigures Blair's Britain. Patronage is deployed by unscrupulous barons to develop their "affinities" of followers. A premium is placed on show, and the divisions between antagonists are all the more bitter for being ideologically obscure to onlookers. Gordon Brown moves from being Blair's best monetarist buddy to John Prescott's Keynesian ally with the inscrutable ease of Warwick the Kingmaker switching from Lancastrian to Yorkist.

Lowlier ministers concentrate not on developing policies for the good of the people, but currying favour with a magnate to keep hold of office. How else can one explain the persistence in office of Alan Meale? This minister, who has made headlines with his freelance lobbying for curious businessmen, is in office only because of his friendship with John Prescott. The last reshuffle may have seen off some Brownites, but how else, other than loyalty to the Chancellor, can one explain the continuance in office of Dawn Primarolo, or Doug Henderson?

The facile will say that Mr Whelan had to go because his personality obscured the message. But there is no message. There are only personalities, trying to find the Third Way to the Second Term. But without First Principles.

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"WHERE'S THE SPIN DOCTOR WHEN YOU NEED ONE?"

A note to the head

In a daft debate about the Blair children bunking off lies a more serious issue

Libby Purves

You have to hand it to us British: we keep each other entertained. Five days in, and already 1999 offers vintage candidates for Pratfall of the Year, Prig of the Year, and Mystery Document of the Year: all rolled up in a story of stupendous triviality and maximum Prime Ministerial embarrassment.

The pratfall, of course, is the fact that during the Blairs' well-earned holiday in the sun, David Hart, of the National Association of Head Teachers, decided to torpedo the escape fantasies of new year travel supplements by condemning parents who "damage their children's education" by taking a family holiday in term-time. Whereon the Education Secretary, who should have better antennae, echoed this headmasterly grumble and promised to lean hard on the travel industry over term-time cheapies.

Well, we are all a bit nervous of headmasters, so the media response was muted. The back row merely muttered that cheap deals are the only hope for some families, that teacher-training days constantly sabotage working parents, and that most employers ration staff holidays in August, so that a two-career family may never get one. And what about those who work in the tourist trade? Do they never get a family break? Yet even with all this muttering, there seemed to be a general sullen consensus that OK, the brats should be in school.

The only paper to swing its handbag with any real conviction was *The Independent*, which printed a magnificent leader saying how *dare* these minions, these "narrow-minded bleating headteachers" lecture "free citizens" who hold the primary legal responsibility for education? Furiously, it advocated that heads taking such a line should "automatically lose any chance of the salary incentives promised them". Phew. This column does not have the espionage resources to bring you full details of which *Independent* leader-writers are planning a freebie in St Anton with little Casimissima and Zoroaster, but you get the picture: outraged middle classes swelling up with guilty indignation, chippy heads squaring for a fight, and meanwhile Duane and Kylie's parents, who wisely ignore most public pronouncements, insouciantly booking the usual family tanfest bang in the middle of term.

But then someone counts on his fingers, scratches his head, and realizes that — O joy! — the three Blaireens will not be back from the Seychelles today to begin the arduously long state school Easter term. At this point the Prig Tendency starts competing for attention. A Downing Street spokesman says that the unfortunate children — the eldest of whom, may I remind you, is two full years away from even mock GCSEs — will "get some sleep on the plane back and be back behind their desks on Wednesday". After 12 hours on a night flight, breathing nasty air laced with faint chemical toilet fumes, are the Blairs really planning to force these children into school at 8.45am.? If so, I give notice that I shall personally shop them to the NSPCC.

Mind you, the Downing Street spokes-prig was only reacting to a stronger contender for the top award, the Headmaster of the London Oratory, John McIntosh. This model of professional discretion informed newspaper reporters that "as far as I am concerned, they should be back at school on Tuesday. They have not applied for a leave of absence and it's well known we take a strong line on this." He went on, as if auditioning for the John Cleese part in *Clockwise*: "I tell parents they must observe what I call the three Hs — haircuts, holidays and homework." If one thing unites all those I have straw-polled so far, it is the vulgar p-word word with which they describe a head teacher who courts tabloid fame by incontinently shooting off his mouth about the affairs of individual families.

Especially as the plot thickens: Downing Street claims that Mrs Blair wrote a letter about the flight problem "some time ago". Don't miss the next exciting episode: will the head remember and apologise? Will the undelivered note be found by forensic investigators stuck to a Murraymint in Euan's satchel? Or will Note-from-Mummygate run and run, with a loyal school secretary struggling to suppress the evidence by doctoring the files, and being foiled by a whistle blowing janitor (played in the movie by Dustin Hoffman with a limp), who pulls it from the shredder and passes it to Paul Routledge before being found suffocated in the gym?

On the wider question of in-term holidaymaking, the only civilised response is to sit on the fence and throw rocks at both sides. Of course you are a fool to whisk GCSE candidates off to the Caribbean, and of course with younger children you make sure they catch up. It can be done: it often is, in flu-ey winter terms. But for schools — particularly state schools, with terms weeks longer than independents' — to ban all discretionary absence is both impossible and stupid.

Those parents who take it generally have good reason, financial or logistical. Most of them, I would guess, have younger children than the Blairs. Their instinct is that two weeks of united family life, foreign travel, shared adventure and outdoor exercise put enough into young minds and bodies to outweigh a small disruption of curricular learning. Or, to descend to the particular, if the Seychelles are the only place the Blair children can get their parents to themselves and relaxed, and Seychelles flights are awkward, the London Oratory can lump it.

Still, like all daft debates it echoes an underlying truth, especially about younger families. There is, in the early years, a secret struggle between schools and parents over who actually owns this kid. Amid all the fuss about working mothers' childcare we overlook the fact that a lot of parents feel a gut reluctance to feed an adored and appreciated child into a rigid system. It is not joy that makes us cry when our small, quirky individual is snuffed by a grey uniform. Moreover, the age of the fragmented family makes intact ones militantly proud. "We are taking *our* children to France. You gotta problem, punk?"

I have to admit to a spectacular snatchback in our first child's first school year. We nervously announced that he would miss the summer term to sail 1,700 miles round mainland Britain with us, and could we please borrow some Roger Red-Hat books? Friends with children at tense little pre-preps warned us that the school would go ballistic, but the headmaster of our state primary — a great man, unaccountably not yet knighted — said: "Crikey! He'll learn more doing that than we could teach him." The boy sent back weekly postcards which the class pasted to a large, wobbly outline of the UK, and returned a hero.

Five years later things had changed, with an irritating circular from the governors saying that although the LEA technically allowed for family holidays, odd days off would be put on record as "unauthorised absence" to count against the child in future life. We were planning a museum visit; glowering, I demanded why it was OK to miss school for a Costa but not for an educational day? The head advised a strategic cold: but things were changing, he explained, and something had come weirdly loose in parental attitudes to school. He was all for our kind of trip, but had to sound tough because of children being kept off on such bizarre grounds as "cousins visiting" or "birthday presents to play with". If the school didn't make threats, he said, parentally approved truancy would become routine.

Maybe this is what has alarmed David Hart into his joyless militancy. Maybe teachers now sense such general lack of respect for what they do (a contempt long fuelled by governmental and Ofsted insults) that they lash their tails and snarl back. It is all quite fascinating. Beneath the bickering and intrigue, real questions squirm. Whose child is it anyway? What really helps it to grow? Does travel broaden the mind? How much difference does a day make? Discuss.

And by the way, a tenner says that Mrs Blair did write that letter. She's a lawyer. It's what they do.

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Wake me up before you go, Gore

Irwin Stelzer on his American nightmare

The forecasters have had their say about the outlook for America in 1999, and we now await the inevitable revisions as reality intrudes. But some of you undoubtedly worry about the longer-term prospects for the world's only superpower. For those who like to think about that, I will share a recurrent nightmare.

It is 2001 and Al Gore is being sworn in as President of the United States after obliterating his Republican opponent. Indeed, so great is voter antipathy to those who believed that a perjurer should be removed from office, the Democrats gain control of both Houses of Congress.

Gore had promised to bring an end to "humankind's assault on the Earth". In his apocalyptic book *Earth in the Balance* he had made clear to the voters that, in his view: "We must change those features of our free market ... economic philosophy that we know are flawed in light of the ecological destruction they legitimise, even encourage." And change them he will. Gore immediately introduces legislation to tighten all environmental standards, even though told by his experts that the costs of compliance far exceed the benefits to be had from these regulations. American industry, saddled with a need to make billions of dollars of new investment, grumbles about becoming non-competitive, but has to comply.

The new President's antipathy to the internal combustion engine is a matter of record. He blames it for everything from the growth of the suburbs — he calls the process by which people find new homes "urban sprawl" and the "malling of America" — to dirty air, the latter despite the fact that cleaner cars and cleaner fuels have reduced auto pollution to lowest-ever levels. So it came as no surprise that he pushed up the price of petrol by three times. No longer can Americans casually decide to hop in their cars and visit granny, or afford a plane ticket to visit her if she has moved to the Sun Belt.

Gore's election campaign was funded in good part by the trade unions, which also provided the doorbell ringers and foot soldiers that turned out the blacks, Hispanics and trade union members that provided him with his margin of victory — just as they had turned the 1998 congressional elections into a triumph for the Democrats and Bill Clinton. The new Speaker of the House, Dick Gephardt, has long been the darling of the trade unions, and is their chosen instrument for getting their way.

Gephardt calls on Gore to present his legislative calendar. Top of the list is a restriction on the importation of any goods produced in countries in which average wages fall below those in the United States, and which do not adopt the stringent environmental regulations that Gore has imposed on American businesses. The effect would be more damaging to the world economy than the Smoot-Hawley tariff that produced the Great Depression, but Gore is beholden to the unions and in no position to deny them their wish.

The next visitor is Senator Edward Kennedy, who delivered to Gore the remnants of the Camelot constituency and the women's vote, over which he holds sway despite a personal history that suggests that his respect for the opposite sex is not total. Kennedy has long sought a major increase in the minimum wage, and a universal healthcare plan funded entirely by taxes on employers. Gore, never as comfortable with limited government and the so-called Third Way as his predecessor, immediately agrees to back that legislation.

And then there is the Hillary problem. With Bill Clinton safely ensconced as president of a Hollywood studio, where he will make full use of all its resources, Hillary now wants something to do until a seat on the Supreme Court or in the Senate opens up. Since Kofi Annan isn't prepared to resign as Secretary-General of the United Nations to make room for Hillary, who now goes by the name Hillary Rodham, Gore parks her in his Cabinet, as Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare.

Ms Rodham's first move is to seek an injunction against all fast-food shops, which have refused a compromise that would have allowed them to stay open if they converted to salad bars. She also declares caffeine a harmful drug, and bans the sale of coffee. This produces a run on Brazil's currency, which throws all of Latin America into recession.

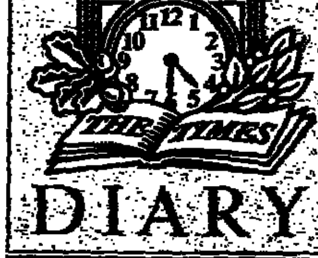
Hillary then avenges past insults by banning all cigars, whether used for smoking or for the less noble purpose to which her now-estranged husband put them.

That last act so personalises the nightmare — a world without cigars is hardly worth contemplating — that I wake up in a cold sweat. After all, it's only a dream. Or is it? Just which part seems implausible?

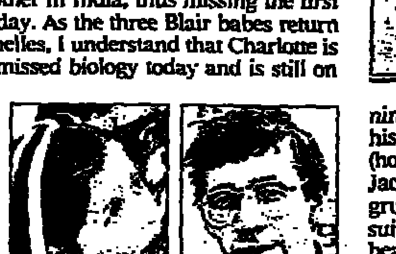
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It's a habit



SKIVING off school is spreading round the Cabinet table. Jack Straw has followed the PM's example by taking his offspring abroad during term time. Charlotte Straw (pictured left), daughter of the Home Secretary, is holidaying with her parents and brother in India, thus missing the first day of term at Pimlico School yesterday. As the three Blair babes return today from their sojourn in the Seychelles, I understand that Charlotte is not expected back for a week. "She missed biology today and is still on holiday," I am informed. Charlotte, studying for A levels, is the younger sister to William — who on the previous Christmas Eve became our most famous teenager when he made the mistake of selling marijuana to an impressively built woman who turned out to be a tabloid investigator. This prompted dear papa to march William to the police.



The purpose of the family trip, along with Mrs Alice Straw, is to set young William off on the right track during his gap year. While William may have been diverted from the hippy trail, I am sure young Charlotte's school career has not gone up in smoke. "There is a lack of understanding amongst parents and Cabinet Ministers," David Hart, a union bod, tells me. "Action needs to be taken."

● *NO great loss, Charlie Whelan. So say friends of Gordon Brown.*

"There are seven buttons on his desk phone," I am told. "Ed Balls is on there but there's never been a button marked Charlie." Perhaps the Chancellor called his spinner on his mobile. More discreet.

Raising Caine

MICHAEL CAINE *has stirred the delicate sensibilities of Leatherhead. The actor, who has swapped America for the more suburban delights of Surrey, has won planning permission to turn stables at his new pad into guest rooms* (hopefully, not full of water beds, Jacuzzis, floating bars). Locals grumble that Caine's plan is "not suitable" and will set an "unhealthy precedent": Caine's letter to Mole Valley council explained that "he has no interest in horses".

● *SO how did the midget formerly Known as Prince spend new year? His important composition 1999 promised: "Two thousand zero zero, party over, oops, out of time / and tonight I'm gonna party like it's 1999." Instead, I am told: "Um, as far as I know he didn't really do anything New Year's Eve. Uh, no."*

Soul mate

THE man who put ripe brie into cheesy, David Soul, is to take his towering theatrical talent to the sunny boulevards of Brixton. Soul, who played Hutch in the 1970s cop show that teamed him with a Mr Starsky, *is to open at the Fridge*, a bracing local nightclub.

In the front row will be one Antonio Fargas, alias Huggy Bear. He will not be alone. Martin Bell winces loyally: "I had dinner with David last night and, work permitting, I'm planning to go along."

● *ROBERT CARLYLE'S Scottish burr has been translated for our Australian cousins. Carlyle, leading trouser in* The Full Monty, *was deemed incomprehensible in* Looking After Jo Jo, *in which he stars as a drugs baron. "Viewers would not understand because the accents were so thick," says a corked hat at Oz TV. "We used subtitles rather than let them struggle on."*



"Father forgive me, for I have not sinned"

How fitting

THE *Queen spent new year* puzzling over a jigsaw. She was sent six examples by the British Jigsaw Puzzle Library. Its head, Pearl Crompton, chose the games. "Her Majesty likes country scenes, so I sent one called *Farm World* with lots of animals and a romantic one called *Her Hunter* of a man and woman with a horse." One popular puzzle did not make it — a picture of *Diana*, Princess of Wales. "I thought that one might be a bit controversial," ventures our Pearl.

● *JOHN PRESCOTT is to pulp the House of Commons Christmas tree to promote greeny ways. Unkind souls tell me he has nicknamed the dead tree "Peter".*

Clear enough?

KIRSTY WARK, the porcelain face of *Newsnight*, is the latest target of "crony-hunters". Ms Wark (pictured), who sat on the panel which chose the Scottish parliament building, has been awarded £186,000 of lottery bunce towards a three-part programme she is making about the project through her production company, Wark-Clements. Willie Rennie, chief executive of the Scottish Lib Dems, says: "It is up to her to make clear that there has been no financial gain. We need absolute transparency after recent events." Ms. Wark says she declared her link immediately and that she has "no further involvement in the parliament".



JASPER GERARD

STORMS AND TEACUPS

Drift is the real danger that Blair must avoid

The departure of Charlie Whelan, the Chancellor's colourful but destructive press secretary, is not likely in itself to prove of enormous consequence to the direction and fortunes of the Government. His resignation is best seen as a postscript to the dramatic events surrounding the fall of Peter Mandelson rather than a political sensation in its own right. Gordon Brown is entitled to appoint someone he trusts to represent him before the media. It would be in the Chancellor's interests, however, if that person did not unleash so much aggression on other Cabinet members.

The combination of the Mandelson affair itself and Tony Blair's absence abroad has allowed three potentially dangerous perceptions to creep up on his administration. The first is that a picture of fratricide and faction, in many quarters exaggerated, has been placed before the electorate. The second is that the entire new Labour experiment is dependent on an extraordinarily small number of people, the most central of whom, Mr Mandelson, has now left office under a cloud. The third, and most lethal, implication is that the Prime Minister's cause has been so damaged by these events that the traditionalist branch of the Labour Party, led by John Prescott in an alliance with Mr Brown, is destined to become ascendant in the year to come.

The evidence for all three assertions is, for the moment at least, less than compelling. This Government certainly contains more than its fair share of abrasive personalities and tender egos. That is perhaps not surprising after two decades of opposition and in light of the modest challenge to ministers that the Conservatives can currently muster. Mr Whelan's demise offers the Prime Minister and Chancellor to draw a line under past feuds. Mr Mandelson, for all his talents, was still more closely associated with the presentation rather than the hard policy aspects of Mr Blair's project. His support for the single currency and electoral reform might, if followed, have led the Prime Minister into truly precarious territory.

The sense that the balance within the Cabinet may have altered and that the modernising camp within the Government has faltered is not one that the Prime Minister can let fester. Once again the sentiment sits on slim foundations. It is based on little more than a single, largely innocuous, interview with John Prescott in which some praise was offered for both John Maynard Keynes and the Chancellor.

Nevertheless, there is the more tangible fear that, as the economy slows and mid-term apathy approaches, Mr Blair's resolve to press ahead with radical reforms in education and the welfare state might encounter enhanced resistance. The temptation to drop, to dilute or to defer these measures to an already somewhat cluttered second term may become overpowering. The most appealing aspect of new Labour, a willingness to entertain the idea that the proper role of the State is to do somewhat less rather more effectively, may be smothered by what has always been its least attractive trait, an obsession with its popularity as measured by poll ratings.

It would be faintly ludicrous to suggest that a Government with a majority of 180 in the House of Commons and huge public support still behind it needs anything as dramatic as a relaunch. But the Prime Minister's low profile over the past two weeks, though understandable, has allowed uncertainty to creep into Westminster and Whitehall. If that ambiguity becomes drift and inertia, Mr Blair will have missed an important opportunity. This momentum cannot necessarily be recaptured at some convenient future moment. The Prime Minister needs to spend the next few weeks at home reasserting his personal political agenda.

PITY PAKISTAN

A wretched mess of intolerance, killings and corruption

The massacre of at least 16 Shia Pakistanis at prayer in a mosque in the Punjab city of Multan is another grim example of the religious fanaticism that is destroying government and society in Pakistan. The Sunni gunmen sprayed worshippers with bullets as they were listening to a sermon. This was a brutal response to the special anti-terrorism court, set up only two weeks ago, which has already sentenced to death 14 Sunni and Shia extremists for sectarian murders. Religious vendettas between the Sunni majority and the Shia Muslims who form a fifth of the population have claimed hundreds of lives in the past two years. But they are only one aspect of a deadly combination of lawlessness, intimidation, assassinations and corruption that has already brought this unhappy country close to political and economic collapse.

Pakistanis will look in vain to their Government to end these horrors. In addition to the sectarian conflict that affects most Muslim countries, Pakistan also suffers from the debilitating violence in Karachi between the Muttahida Quami Movement (MQM), the organisation representing Muslims who immigrated from India after partition, and the indigenous population. The violence, which has killed most commercial initiative in this former centre of trade, is now spilling beyond city and into all local politics. It finds an echo in the clashes to the north, where heavily armed refugees from the war in Afghanistan have exacerbated tribal divisions.

Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister, has promised to crack down on terrorism. But he shows neither the will nor capacity to do so. He himself has only just escaped assassination, when a bomb exploded under a bridge on the road to his family farm. As usual, the finger has been pointed at Indian intelligence agents; more likely perpetrators are MQM militants and political enemies who are locked in a bitter struggle with Mr Sharif.

In many ways the Prime Minister is in an enviable position. He has an overwhelming parliamentary majority. He has won the power struggle with the former President and with Pakistan's judiciary, emerging with a stronger hand than any previous democratically elected leader. The political opposition is discredited by the allegations of corruption levelled at Benazir Bhutto, her family and her cronies. But he has thrown away his advantage. He has done little to liberalise the economy, reform the country's political institutions or crack down on corruption. He has shown himself to be as venal and opportunist as most politicians. And he appears greedy for absolute power with little idea of how to use it for Pakistan's advantage.

There is an illusion in Pakistan that because it has exploded a nuclear bomb, it commands world respect. Pakistanis believe that they will be bailed out of their largely self-made economic mess because of their strategic and political importance. In fact, the resort to nuclear testing, just like Mr Sharif's embrace of an ever more rigid Islamicisation, is a populist attempt to hide the failings of his rule. Both may bring short-lived popularity. But the costs — a cut in foreign aid and growing religious intolerance — are weighing heavily on the population. The weekend upsurge of violence should be a warning to the lacklustre Government to tackle the country's enormous underlying problems.

THE PRE-MILLENNIUM BUG

Flu is best treated at home not in hospital

If life were a game of Monopoly, there would be a space marked Bed, and a Chance card, giving strict instructions: "You have flu. Move directly to bed. Do not pass Go. Do not go to hospital. Miss three goes." Sadly, many people who have been struck down by the current flu virus still need to be given such simple advice. Feverish, coughing and spluttering, they have made their way to doctors' surgeries or hospitals — some by ambulance — where they languish for hours, passing their illness on, only to be told that there is no magical cure. For most people, the best cure is simple: take a hot, sweet drink, find a good book or programme and go to bed.

Although the earliest description of an influenza epidemic was recorded in 1610, the term was first widely used in 1743 to describe what the *London Magazine* called "a contagious distemper" raging in Italy. Lord Chesterfield told his son that influenza is "a little fever, of which scarcely anyone dies; and it generally goes off with a little looseness". A century and a half later, an estimated 20 million died in the 1918 outbreak of Spanish influenza, which ranks with the Black Death as the one of the severest outbreaks of diseases ever. Today, however, thanks in part to vaccinations, Lord Chesterfield's advice holds. Those most at risk are infants and the elderly, especially if they are suffering from bronchitis, pneumonia or other debilitating disorders. If they are swamped by less deserving cases, surgeries and emergency wards might well be unable to provide this vulnerable group with the care and attention they need.

Despite the best efforts of hypochondriacs, the current outbreak of H3N2 Sydney flu is nowhere near epidemic proportions. To be classified an "epidemic", more than 400 cases of flu per 100,000 people need to be recorded a week — five times the current level of those who have caught this pre-millennium bug. But some hospitals are already straining to cope, even though the Government is spending an extra £250 million to help to tide the NHS through any winter crisis. Patients are being treated in ambulances and serious cases shipped across the country in search of a bed. Yet lack of beds disguises the real problem. Even if there were more beds, there would not be the nurses needed to look after those resting in them.

Like teaching, nursing is a profession suffering from a retainment and recruitment crisis. The exodus of qualified nurses, many of whom are being lured into the private sector by higher salaries, is putting an increasing number of hospitals — particularly their intensive care units — under immense strain. There are, overall, 8,000 nursing vacancies and, for the first time, spaces on nurses' training courses. Until the image and pay structure of nursing is overhauled, this problem — unlike Sydney flu — will not disappear.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

UK candidates for Brussels posts

From Sir Roy Denman

Sir, Well before the end of this year the Government will need to decide who should be the two next British members of the European Commission. The assumption in Brussels is that Neil Kinnock will remain for a well merited second term and that Sir Leon Brittan, after 11 years, will step down.

The successor to Sir Leon could normally have been expected to be a Conservative. But the policy towards Europe recently adopted by the Conservative Party is to oppose not only British membership of the single currency for at least the next eight years but any of the further economic and political integration which will inexorably follow the euro.

Thus to send a Conservative as a European Commissioner would be tantamount to selecting a member of a league of atheists to fill the vacancy for a bishop.

Surely the sensible solution would be to appoint a leading member of the party which has for many years supported European integration. Either Paddy Ashdown or Menzies Campbell has the ability and the knowledge of European questions to make a first-class commissioner.

Yours faithfully,
ROY DENMAN
(Director-General for External Affairs, EEC Commission, 1977-82),
26 St Luke's Street, SW3 3RP.
January 3.

Launch of the euro

From Mr Stan Snowdon

Sir, The negative views expressed about the euro by Sir John Craven and others (letter, January 1) are understandable, but I am surprised to note that the Executive Director of the Federation of Small Businesses is among the signatories. Multinational trading conglomerates will benefit least from joining the euro. The real beneficiaries, in my view, will be small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

If we entered euroland our SMEs would enjoy access to longer-term finance at lower interest rates, as do our European competitors. This would help to lower overheads, increase competitiveness and extend the survival rate of SMEs. At present the survival rate is three years for 53 per cent of SMEs in the North West region.

Your correspondents also point out that we have the fifth largest trading economy in the world. However, and despite the fact that we also have the lowest rates of corporation tax, our living standards are among the lowest in Europe.

What is right for Europe will be good for Britain too.

Yours faithfully,
STAN SNOWDON
(Managing Director,
Staffordshire Giftware Ltd),
84 Belgrave Avenue,
Congleton, Cheshire CW12 1HT.
January 2.

From Mr Bill Cash, MP for Stone (Conservative)

Sir, Your leading article of January 2, "A German Europe", states that Germany has now abandoned her previous "conciliatory EU posture".

It always was a posture, as I indicated in my pamphlet, *British and German National Interests*, published by the European Foundation last September.

The single currency and EMU came about through the Maastricht treaty, which I warned John Major, at the time, would create an undemocratic and German Europe. He and his Cabinet allowed EMU to go ahead. In a protocol to the treaty EMU is expressed as "irrevocable". So too, therefore, is political union, for the two are inseparable.

It falls, as ever, to the British people to redeem this disastrous situation by a "no" vote in the referendum.

Yours faithfully,
BILL CASH
(Chairman),
The European Foundation,
61 Pall Mall, SW1Y 5HZ.
January 3.

From Dr Philip E. Roe

Sir, Why is the euro the size that it is? It is too large to function as the only unit since many things can be bought for less. But if it is divided into 100 cents the cent is too small and will not buy anything. The ideal size of a monetary unit is surely the smallest amount anyone would bother with — about 2p.

The inventors of that other inconvenient continental unit, the metre, just too long for a stride, based it on the circumference of the Earth. Does anything in nature correspond to 70p?

Yours etc,
PHILIP ROE,
157 Verulam Road,
St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 4DW.
philip.e.roe@btinternet.com

From Mr John Gibbs

Sir, "Euroland" is English (report, January 4)? Well, well. How did they tell? There was I thinking it was German.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GIBBS,
14 Queen Street, Maesteg CF34 9YN.
January 4.

The spirit of optimism in our 'moral wasteland'

From Mr Charles T. Ross

Sir, David Selbourne cheers up the new year by rattling our consciences at the widespread cynicism which he thinks is causing our civilisation to descend into the abyss (article extract, "Our moral wasteland", December 30).

No one can be complacent about the failures in our society which he lists, but Jeremiahs all seem to compare today's inadequacies with some mythical lost paradise of yesteryear. Take his first point about the way some old people are regarded as commodities by private care homes; this compares, not so much with a past in which every elderly couple lived in the bosom of a caring, loving, extended family, but with the terror, even in living memory, of the workhouse.

He cites the number of arson attacks on schools. Fifty years ago some 20 per cent of our children received a reasonable education — now, perhaps 70 per cent do. Of course, this is not good enough, but we should ask ourselves what sort of experience encourages youngsters to try and burn down their schools?

The big shock horror is "the moral quagmire" of our divorce rate. Perhaps this level of failure should encourage us to reflect on the culture of how people are encouraged to select their partners in the first place. What might these statistics indicate about the experience of couples who for centuries were forced to live with their mistakes? Selbourne pines for the nuclear family — yet look at the weight of evidence of the stress this can cause.

In the extract you have published Selbourne offers no solutions to what he calls "moral evasion". But there is hope. In this century we have achieved universal suffrage — so we begin to influence how we are governed; deference to a static hereditary system is on the wane. We have created the welfare state. The National Health Service may have its faults but it is a beacon of civilisation. More than half the population have jobs that give them genuine satisfaction and the percentage rises annually.

Of course there are problems, there always will be, and there is much to be done, but we go into the new millennium better fed, in better health, better clothed and housed, less superstitious and better educated to enjoy our knowledge, art and culture.

We may not do it in the name of religion, but our community is increasingly tolerant, generous and compassionate.

Yours sincerely,
CHARLES T. ROSS,
Mulberry House, 8 Mount Road,
Lansdown, Bath BA1 5PW.
January 1.

From Mrs Mary C. Smith

Sir, David Selbourne has given us all a salutary warning. We have switched off the engine and are freewheeling into what is fast becoming an amoral society. What else do we expect when the Christian religion has largely been thrown out of schools and the vast majority of homes?

The Christian Church has become apologetic concerning its belief, and is, in some areas of life, trying to dispense with morality altogether, blurring the divide between right and wrong.

Yours sincerely,
MARY C. SMITH,
54 Eastern Road, N2 9LA.
December 31.

From Mr P. J. Riddell

Sir, While what David Selbourne writes is undeniable, I found myself wishing that he might put his formidable skills towards encouraging people. By assembling all that is wrong, we can easily depress ourselves. But the picture should be balanced by cataloguing some of the multitude of generous and noble actions which we also encounter.

It is difficult to assess the current state of the struggle between good and evil in a particular people — one's judgment is so affected by one's own frame of mind at the time. Mr Selbourne's article stands in contrast to the spirit of this Christmas season, by marking which, we affirm our belief that however dark things may seem, there is hope — evil will not triumph. A prophet, while warning of dangers ahead, has a duty to reflect that hope, and seek to inspire people to better things.

Yours sincerely,
P. J. RIDDELL,
12a Norham Road, Oxford OX2 6SF.
December 31.

From Mrs E. Wheeler

Sir, "Our moral wasteland" certainly made for thought-provoking reading. It did not surprise me that most of the quotes used by David Selbourne came from *The Guardian*. I was a devoted reader of that paper for many years until I could no longer bear the dark, debilitating cynicism which began to fill its pages. On every moral issue it took the so-called "forward-looking" trendy view.

But where did the second largest source of quotes come from? From *The Times*. Does this give you food for thought? You cannot condemn moral cynicism and social confusion and then give inches of column space to those who perpetrate them. Where will you make your stand?

Yours faithfully,
E. WHEELER,
5 Goodwood Close,
Waterlooville, Hampshire PO8 8BG.
100531.2573@compuserve.com
December 30.

Hopes for model housing dashed

From Mr G. M. Wedd

Sir, As one of the civil servants on whom, among others, Mr Michael Moore (letter, December 30) heaps the responsibility for the Park Hill estate in Sheffield, may I express a view contrary to his, and your other correspondents'?

Park Hill is highly ingenious. The way the flats wrap around the walkways and the ribbon of building is laid out so that every walkway but one reaches ground level somewhere, represents good, creative architecture.

Three things went wrong with Park Hill, as with almost all other public housing of that period. Standards were low. Ceiling heights were kept to the minimum thought necessary for health. Soundproofing was very poor; no one in the 1950s foresaw that every room in every flat would contain a TV or ghetto-blaster. Parking provision was derisory; it was thought that those who could afford a car should get out of heavily subsidised accommodation.

Of necessity, the flats were allocated to people for whom they were not suitable, rather than the young professionals or retired couples; but these latter were not at the top of the waiting list. A family with three or four young children — who will all too soon turn into three or four teenagers, chafing at the constraints of such a lifestyle — would be far better off in a semi or terrace house.

However, the Park district, which had been demolished, was heavily populated and it was everyone's understandable wish that as many of the former residents as possible should be rehoused where they had lived. (Incidentally, anyone who criticises Park Hill should have some knowledge of what it replaced.)

In common with all such estates, this one was woefully undermaintained. In the 1950s we did not recognise that every block of flats in Paris, for example, had a concierge to every eight or nine dwellings, a level of management, cleaning and — yes — supervision many times better than on an English estate.

Visiting Park Hill two years after it was first occupied, I noticed that the gardeners wore hard hats — apparently to protect them from things thrown from upper floors, but ineffective against hot chip fat.

The story of public sector housing in Britain from the 1930s onwards is that of our greatest single programme of public investment, creating an estate which housed, at its largest, a third of our people. Park Hill is, in many ways, a microcosm of that story.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE WEDD
(Under-Secretary, Department of the Environment, 1976-90),
The Lodge, Church Hill,
Littleton, Somerset BS39 6HG.
January 1.

Balliol protest

From Professor Emeritus W. L. Gage

Sir, Your Balliol correspondent Kate Atkinson (letter, December 30) complains, not of the principle of some student contribution, but of the timing of the payment.

The danger of the deferred graduate tax which she proposes is that students may fail to respect the assets or the cost-control procedures of their university. They may not see themselves as stakeholders.

Yours faithfully,
BILL GAGE,
35 St Lawrence Drive,
Pinner, Middlesex HA5 2RW.
December 30.

Golden years

From Mr John Pullan

Sir, As I am retired and on the doorstep of drawing my old-age pension I protest at the prospect of being called a "senior" (letters, December 28 and 31).

If you are young, you are young. If you are middle-aged, you are middle-aged. If you are old, no euphemism can alter the fact.

How you feel is quite different.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PULLAN,
32 Twatling Road,
Barnt Green, Birmingham B45 8HT.
jpullan99@aol.com
January 1.

Woodland burials

From the Director of The Natural Death Centre

Sir, Your leading article, "The dominions of death" (December 29), praises the Oakfield woodland burial ground at Wrabness in Essex and calls for more such sites. The first woodland burial ground in the UK was opened in Carlisle in 1993. Today there are 84 such grounds. It is the fastest growing environmental movement in the UK.

Our charity runs an association to link these sites and gives awards to the best. The most recent winner was the Greenhaven farm near Rugby, which charges a mere £490 for grave, tree, biodegradable coffin and collection of the body, even from as far away as London.

This brings environmentally friendly burial within the reach of those who might otherwise have chosen the more polluting option of cremation, with its often drab and rushed service.

Yours faithfully,
JOSEFINE SPEYER, Director,
The Natural Death Centre,
20 Heber Road, NW2 6AA.
January 1.

Pain in the toe

From Dr Andrew Bamji

Sir, I have suggested for years that the common belief that gout is due to an excess of port, among other wines (article, "Just like toothache in the big toe", Weekend, December 26), is due to the loss, probably last century, of two letters from the name of its precipitant. It is porter, not port.

Porter, of course, is beer, so Adam Edwards's switch to this beverage will undoubtedly make his gout worse. We now know that the yeasts in beer, which are broken down to uric acid, are the cause. Other foods rich in purines, red meat and yeast extract among them, are villains also.

In any event, if he was taking enough allopurinol he should not get gout at all. So I would advise eschewing beer, yeast extract and fillet steak, and stick to the wee dram now and again.

Yours spiritedly,
ANDREW BAMJI
(Consultant rheumatologist),
Greylands, 58 Goddington Lane,
Orpington, Kent BR6 9DS.
andrew_bamji@compuserve.com
December 28.

The strain of the train

From Dr J. R. C. West

Sir, Mr M. R. K. Holden (letter, December 30) asks for a new slogan for British Rail in the light of "the appalling conditions many customers now endure".

After two very substandard trips to Cornwall by Great Western in August I wrote to the Customer Relations Department, suggesting the change of one letter only, ie, "Let the train make the strain".

I received a reply and compensation, but no thanks for my suggestion.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WEST,
9 Ullswater Road, Barnes, SW13 9PL.
December 30.

From Mr Jack Smith

Sir, Those of us who had a hand in the campaign in which "Let the train take the strain" was a major and very effective component are still delighted when it is resuscitated from time to time, after so many years.

As a professional railwayman of over 62 years' experience, may I suggest that its successor for 1999 should be: "Come back, British Railways, all is forgiven."

Yours faithfully,
JACK SMITH,
Hohturli, Hermitage Road,
Cold Ash, Newbury RG18 9JG.
January 1.

From Mr Paul Phillips

Sir, How about "Here today, still here tomorrow"?

Yours faithfully,
P. J. PHILLIPS,
16 Burns Green,
Benington, Stevenage,
Hertfordshire SG2 7DA.
pjphil@hampers.globalnet.co.uk
January 2.

Shakespeare honoured

From Mr Michael Heilman

Sir, It was wonderful to read the significant space *The Times* devoted to Shakespeare today.

The educational system in most of the US has trivialised and reduced his work to tedium. He has been held hostage by the elite. I'm glad to see him honoured in the land of his birth.

Yours etc,
MICHAEL HEILMAN,
11546 Hickory Cluster,
Reston, VA 20190-3601.
bdhmfh@erols.com
January 2.

That sinking feeling

From Mr Frederick King

Sir, I have an ambition (not yet realised) to tip out water from a washing-up bowl, and to find it empty. There is always a teaspoon.

Yours faithfully,
E. F. KING,
The Barn, Chapel Allerton,
Axbridge, Somerset BS26 2PH.
January 3.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

SOCIAL NEWS

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will open the first session of the new Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh on Thursday, July 1.

Sir David Woodbine Parish

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir David Woodbine Parish, CBE, will be held at St Olave's, Hart Street, London EC3, on Tuesday, January 19, 1999, at noon.

Sir William Mather

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir William Loris Mather will be held at St Peter's, Prestbury, Cheshire, on Wednesday, January 20, at noon. Donations if desired to Macclesfield District General Hospital or the Army Benevolent Fund.

Colonel Roderick Hill

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Colonel Roderick Hill, late Coldstream Guards and formerly Lord-Lieutenant of Gwent, will be held at St Mary's Parish Church, Chepstow, Monmouthshire, on Thursday, February 11, 1999, at 11.30am. Would those wishing to attend please write for tickets to Mr G.C. Francis, 17 Welsh Street, Chepstow, NP6 5YH, before January 25. All are most welcome.

Mr Quentin Crewe

A memorial service for Mr Quentin Crewe will be held at St George's, Hanover Square, London W1, on Thursday, February 18, at noon.

Dinner

The Athenaeum
Mrs Lavinia Cohn-Sherbok was the speaker at a talk dinner of the Athenaeum held last night at Pall Mall. The Very Rev David Edwards was in the chair.

Marriage

Mr R. Johnson
and Mrs J. Griffiths
The marriage took place on Christmas Eve, at Runaway Bay, Jamaica, between Mr Roy Johnson and Mrs June Griffiths.

Premium Bonds

The £1 million prize in the Premium Bond draw for January was won with 74BW 260906. The winner lives in Kent and has a bond holding of £19,991.

Birthdays today

The King of Spain celebrates his 61st birthday today.
The Grand Duke of Luxembourg celebrates his 78th birthday today.
Mr Alfred Brendel, KBE, concert pianist, 68; Mr Tom Burke, environmentalist, 52; the Earl of Dudley, 79; Sir Alan Hume, civil servant, 86; Miss Diane Keaton, actress, 53; Lord Kingsdown, KG, 72; Miss Jan Leeming, broadcaster, 57; Mr Maurizio Pollini, pianist, 57; Sir Norman Price, former chairman, Board of Inland Revenue, 84; Major-General H. Quinlan, 93; General Sir Michael Rose, 59; General Sir John Stibbon, 64; the Hon Mrs Alison Wright, former director-general, British Invisibles, 54; Lord Wynford, 82.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: John Burke, genealogist and founder of *Burke's Peerage*, 1787; King Camp Gillette, inventor of the safety razor, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, 1855; Konrad Adenauer, 1st Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany 1949-63, Cologne, 1876; Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Prime Minister of Pakistan 1971-77, Larkana, India, 1928.

DEATHS: Edward the Confessor, King of England reigned 1042-66, London, 1066; Joseph Gillot, pioneer of the steel pen, Birmingham, 1873; Sir Ernest Shackleton, explorer, South Georgia, Antarctica, 1922; Calvin Coolidge, 30th American President 1923-29, Northampton, Massachusetts, 1933; Amy Johnson, aviator, on a flight across the Thames Estuary, 1941; Sonny Liston, boxer, Las Vegas, 1971.

One-day cricket was born when England played Australia at Melbourne because the Test match had been abandoned after the previous day's rain, 1971.

Hunting for a relic stolen from Cromwell's hearse

By Dalya Alberge, Arts Correspondent

ON THE 400th anniversary of Oliver Cromwell's birth, the Museum of London is searching for the satin coat of arms that adorned the hearse at his funeral in 1658 and may have been stolen by a Westminster schoolboy who vanished with it into the crowd.

An account from the 1790s suggests that it is in a private collection but tracking it down has so far proved impossible. Hazel Forsyth, the museum's curator of post-medieval collections, said: "It is astonishing that any object from Oliver Cromwell's funeral has survived the vandalism and destruction of the Restoration and vicissitudes of the last 400 years. But two fragile textiles have survived, one in the Museum of London's collection; the other in private hands, present whereabouts unknown. Both were apparently taken from the hearse."

Cromwell died from a malarial infection of the spleen on September 3, 1658. His funeral was particularly lavish, costing up to £60,000, according to some estimates, at a time when the average daily wage was less than a shilling (5p). More than 2,000 escutcheons, shields bearing coats-of-arms in satin, taffity (a type of woven silk) and buckrum (a cotton-based fabric), were among objects that adorned the hearse and rooms at Somerset House where he lay in state for several weeks. But only two escutcheons are believed to have survived: at the Restoration in 1661, the hearse was destroyed and Cromwell's body was exhumed, the head severed and the body cast into a pit under the gallows.

The Museum of London's taffity escutcheon, acquired in 1914, bears this inscription: "Oliver Cromwell's scutcheon that was taken from his Hearse ye 23rd Nov. 1658".

Miss Forsyth said: "Until recently, it was thought that the museum's escutcheon had been taken from the hearse by a Westminster School boy, Robert Uvedale. The 16-year-old, in an act of bravado, darted through the legs of the guard and snatched the escutcheon from the bier, disappearing into the crowd before anyone could stop him. In due course, the escutcheon became a family heirloom, and was eventually framed. At some point a paper label with Latin inscription was fixed to the back, describing the theft and continuing with a vituperative account of Cromwell's life and character."

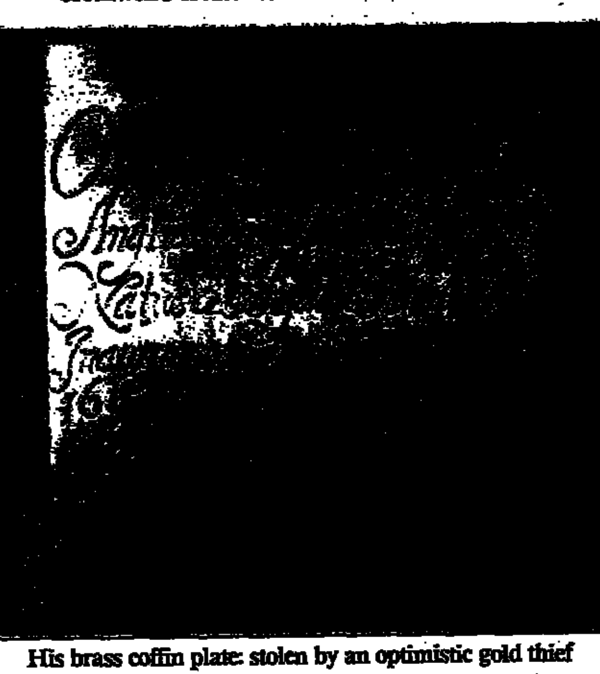
However, she explained, close reading suggests that the "Uvedale" escutcheon is different from the museum's and that the boy's souvenir has yet to be traced.

The museum will be displaying its escutcheon in *Cromwell: Warts and All*, which will run from Friday this week to February 28, along with Cromwell memorabilia that make up the largest collection in the country: items will include a waistcoat reputedly worn by Charles I on the scaffold and two death masks. Much of it has never been seen before. The exhibition is among a series of special events which will commemorate the 400th anniversary of Cromwell's birth on April 25, 1599.

DES JENSON



Cromwell's escutcheon: taken from his hearse



His brass coffin plate: stolen by an optimistic gold thief

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D.M. Benton
and Miss A.H. Prain
The engagement is announced between Daniel, son of the late Dr Denis Benton and of Mrs Mary Allen, of Gloucester, and Alison, daughter of Kenneth and Rosalind Prain, of Alford, Aberdeenshire.

Mr A.J.A. Cranmer
and Mevrouw J. van Zadelhoff
The engagement is announced between Alistair John Abery, younger son of the Rev J.A. and Mrs Cranmer, of Crawley, Hampshire, and Joanneke, younger daughter of De Heer and Mevrouw E.J.H. van Zadelhoff-Scholten, of Bussum, The Netherlands.

Mr G.W.M. Crewdson
and Miss F.M. Nunneley
The engagement is announced between Giles, son of Mr and the Hon Mrs Peregrine Crewdson, of Otley, Suffolk, and Frances, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Nunneley, of Pewsey, Wiltshire.

Mr S.D. Hall
and Miss E. Schwarz
The engagement is announced between Simon, eldest son of Mr Derek Hall, of Barnes, London, and Mrs Jennifer Hall, of Chiswick, London, and Emma, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Benno Schwarz, of Childe Okeford, Dorset.

Mr M.J.R. Harris
and Miss E.G. Brunton
The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr and Mrs J.K.M. Harris, of Tadworth, Surrey, and Emma, daughter of Dr and Mrs F.J. Brunton, of Dibden Purlieu, Hampshire.

Mr A.T. Hodgson
and Miss Y. Osada
The engagement is announced between Andrew, younger son of Mr and Mrs P.E. Hodgson, of Peterborough, and Yuko, only daughter of Mr Y. Osada, of Tokyo, and Mrs H. Kaga, of Tochigi, Japan.

Mr R. Söderlind
and Miss H. Norman
The engagement is announced between Rolf Söderlind, Swedish resident of Vienna, and Heather Norman, of London.

Mr D.M. Kay
and Miss C.Y. Jones
The engagement is announced between Dominic, second son of Sir Maurice and Lady Kay, of Nantwich, Cheshire, and Claire, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Henry Jones, of Deganwy, Conwy.

Mr J.O. de M. Kellock
and Miss K.A. Davidsen
The engagement is announced between James Oliver, son of Mr and Mrs Robert Kellock, of Old Fonthill Abbey, Tisbury, Wiltshire, and Karen Ann, daughter of Mr and Mrs Svein Davidsen, of Kingswood, Surrey.

Lieutenant Q.S. Matthews, RN,
and Dr J.F. Mason
The engagement is announced between Quentin, younger son of Dr and Mrs Trevor Matthews, of Overtown, near Kirkby Lonsdale, Lancashire, and Judith, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Edward Mason, of Lowgill, Lancashire.

Mr J.R. Pugh
and Mlle F.J.M. Groshans
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, elder son of Colonel Oliver Pugh, of East Horsley, Surrey, and of the late Mrs Ann Pugh, and Frédérique, only daughter of M and Mme Pierre Groshans, of Tarascon-sur-Rhône, France.

Mr T.G.J. Sherston
and Miss C.A. Villiers
The engagement is announced between Tom, son of Mr and Mrs Jack Sherston, of Warehorne, Kent, and Charlotte, daughter of Mr Douglas Villiers, of Chelsea, London, and Mrs Lena Proudlock, of Leighterton, Gloucestershire.

Mr R.S. Taylor
and Miss A.C.L. Alder
The engagement is announced between Russell, elder son of Mr and Mrs Sam Taylor, of Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria, and Annabel, daughter of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Alder, of Beverley, East Yorkshire.

Mr M.C.K. Watson
and Miss D.J.G. de Satgé
The engagement is announced between Michael Charles Knox, eldest son of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs T.A.K. Watson, of Broadchalke, Wiltshire, and Deborah Jane Geraldine, younger daughter of the late Rev and Mrs John de Satgé.

PERSONAL

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures for ever. Psalm 118.1 (NIV)

BIRTHS

ATTA - On December 31st at The Portland Hospital to Hurera (née Akilu) and Hamza, a son, Kamal, a brother for Kamila.

BANNISTER PARKER - On 27th December at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington to Charlotte and William, a son, Charles Hartley, a brother for Roderick.

BARR - On December 29th at The Portland Hospital to Heather and Stuart, a son, *Harrison Michael*, a brother for Jordan.

BLAKE - On 22nd December 1998, to Daniel and Joanna (née Reynolds), a daughter, Natalie Darcey.

BRIGGS - On December 31st 1998 to Rosey and Sandy, twins, a brother and sister for Alice and Tom.

CAMPBELL - On December 29th at The Portland Hospital to Julia and Noel, a daughter, Caroline Sarah, a sister for Alexander.

DAMPIER - Born on 2nd January 1999, to Catherine (née Edgecliffe-Johnson) and James, a daughter, *Eleanor Rosemary*.

DANIEL - On 23rd December to Charlotte (née Colfox) and James, a son, John James Colfox, a brother for Olivia, Hettie and Posy.

DIXON SMITH - On December 29th at The Portland Hospital, to Sophie (née Pattison) and Simon, a daughter, Isabella Grace, a sister to Emilia.

DOWNES - On December 31st 1998, to Clare (née Sheehan) and Tom, a daughter Eliza Jane, sister to Annabel.

DRYSDALE - On December 10th to Mary (née Nottidge) and Malcolm, a son Calum Daniel Edward.

FELDMAN - On December 28th at The Portland Hospital to Juliet (née Starr) and Jonathan, a son, Joshua Charlie.

GEDEON - On December 29th at The Portland Hospital to Leila (née Frechet) and Georges, a daughter, Natasha, a sister for Tatiana.

HARRIS - On Friday 1st January 1999, to Biddy (née Husk) and Alex, a son, Angus Edward.

IRWIN - to Alexandra (née Elstub) and Andrew on 14th December 1998, a daugher Georgiana, a sister for Isabel and Katharine.

JONES - On December 30th at The Portland Hospital to Maria (née Ellis) and Nicholas, a son, George, a brother for Maximillian.

MACISAAC - On 29th December 1998 to Nichole (née Townsend) and David, a daughter, Isabella Victoria.

McQUAIN - On December 28th at The Portland Hospital to Karla and Barry, twins Regan and Kyle, sisters for Morgan and Bailey.

MOLYNEUX-CHILD - On 17th November 1998, to Marianne and Patrick, a son, Alexander Thomas, a brother for Josephine.

ONG - On December 30th at The Portland Hospital to Helen and John, a son, John Finley, a brother for Leila and Sophie.

PARTICK-HILEY - On December 17th in Connecticut, to Lisa and Nicholas, a son Edmund Anthony, a brother for Hugo.

REYNIERS - On December 30th at The Portland Hospital to Lorraine (née Codling) and Paul, a daughter, Madeleine, a sister for Alexandra and Georgia.

SCHROEDER - On December 28th at The Portland Hospital to Mary and Mark, a daughter, Margaret Elizabeth, a sister for Anna and John.

SCOTT - On December 31st at The Portland Hospital to Samantha and Alexander, a daughter, Scarlett Louise, a sister for Honor.

SMALL - On January 2nd at The Portland Hospital to Marion (née Brister) and Tony, a daughter, Elizabeth Sarah.

SYKES - On January 1st, 1999, in Salisbury, to Sammy and Henry, a son, Oliver John Coote.

TZORTZIS - On January 1st at The Portland Hospital to Rita (née Hadjioannou) and Akis, a son, Luke, a brother for Alexander.

WARBURTON - On December 29th at The Portland Hospital to Michelle (née Hall) and James, a daughter, Emma Josephine.

DEATHS

ABSALOM - (née Allen) Marjorie Julia. Aged 86. Peacefully at home on December 31st with her family. Cremation at Surrey & Sussex Crematorium, followed by Thanksgving Service at St. George's Church, Crowhurst, Surrey on Saturday 9th January at 12 noon. Donations in lieu of flowers to Heatherley Cheshire Home, Copthorne or League of Friends of Leatherhead Hospital at the Church or c/o Funeral Director, Alex Jones, East Grinstead Road, Lingfield, Surrey.

ALLEN - Doris Norah of Edgbaston, Birmingham died peacefully at home on 30th December 1998 aged 94 years. Beloved wife of the late Frederick George (Pat) and dearly loved aunt, great aunt and great great aunt. Funeral at St Augustine's Church, Edgbaston on Wednesday 13th January at 12:15 pm followed by private cremation. Donations if desired to Injured Jockeys Company Ltd. c/o Thos Furber and Co Ltd, 122 Station Road, Harborne, Birmingham B17 9LS.

ASHWOOD - James, OBE, peacefully on 2nd January 1999 at Truscott Manor Nursing Home, East Grinstead, aged 79. Formerly of the Diplomatic Service and Department of Trade and Industry. Dearly loved husband of Ruth and beloved father of Merryl and the late Geoffrey. Funeral at Turners Hill Free Church (West Sussex) on Monday 11th January at 11:30 am and afterwards at the Surrey and Sussex Crematorium. Family flowers only, but donations if desired to Scripture Gift Mission, 3 Eccleston Street, London SW1W 9LZ.

ATHERTON - Vicky formerly Church died peacefully 2nd January at Ripon Community Hospital. Dearly beloved wife of David and much loved mother of Nicholas, Katherine and Peter. Funeral at St Andrews Parish Church, Keighley at 1:30 pm Thursday 7th January, and afterwards at Newsholme Manor, Oakworth. Family request donations instead of flowers to Dr T Perrin, Breast Cancer Research, with cheques payable to St James' Hospital, Leeds.

BALLANTYNE - Dr. J. Rollo died at his home on 30th December 1998. Loving husband and dearest friend of Marion, triplet brother of John and the late Jean. He will be sadly missed by his children Iain, David and Celia and their mother Tym; and his grandchildren Emily and Alex and their mother Susie. Cremation at Kingsdown Crematorium, Swindon on December 8th at 12.30 pm. No flowers please. Donations to Imperial Cancer Research Fund c/o Philip Tomlins Ltd. Funeral Directors, Evesham. WR11 5AP Tel. 01386 765133.

BEDFORD - Felix Hugh Wyatt of Weston Patrick, peacefully in the early hours of 31st December 1998, aged 88. Loved and loving husband, father and grandfather. Private cremation. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held at St Lawrence Church, Weston Patrick, on 13th January at 12 noon. Family flowers only. Donations, if wished, to Friends of St Lawrence, c/o Corner House, Weston Patrick, Basingstoke, RG25 2NX.

BEDFORD - Stanley Charles, of Bourne End, Buckinghamshire, on 28th December 1998. Funeral Service 12 noon on Tuesday 12th January at the Chilterns Crematorium, Amersham. Family flowers only, donations if desired to RNLI c/o G.Smith Funeral Directors, 4 The Green, Wooburn Green, Bucks, HP10 0QQ. Tel: 01628 523566.

BOYCE - Suddenly on 31st December 1998. Thomas, beloved husband of Lucy and father of Edward and Doddy. Service of Thanksgiving for family and close friends to be held at the Church of St. James the Great, Fulbrook on Friday 8th January at 2.00pm, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to The Badminton Conservation and Educational Trust for the Countryside or Burford Hospital Comforts Fund. All enquiries to E. Taylor & Son, 21 Corbett Road, Carterton, Oxon. Tel: 01993 842 421.

BOYD - Leslie, CBE, - formerly Clerk of the Court at the Old Bailey, peacefully in Bristol on 18th December. His ashes will be interred beneath the tree which he planted in memory of Wendy at Wraxall Manor, Dorchester, Dorset at 12 noon on Saturday 9th January.

BRADFIELD - Roger Hugh died at home on 3rd January aged 66 years. Funeral Service will be held at Christ Church Shamley Green, Surrey on Monday 11th January at 11. 30 followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, donations if desired directly Marie Curie Cancer Care or Musicians Benevolent Fund. Further details from Pimms Funeral Service 01483 274079.

BURROWS - Kenneth Edgar peacefully on 25th December aged 83. Beloved brother of Lorna. Funeral to be held at Breakspear Crematorium, Ruislip on 12th January at 3 pm. No flowers by request but donations if desired to Guide Dogs for the Blind, c/o WS Bond, 19 Bond Street, Ealing W5 5AP. Tel 0181 567 0422.

CARROLL - John Clement Joseph (Jack). Late of Liverpool and East Sheen, on 30th December 1998 in his 92nd year. Funeral at St. Mary's Church, Bury St. Edmund's Suffolk, Monday 11th January, 12 noon.

CARMICHAEL - Betty, on 31st December 1998, aged 83. Beloved wife of the late Lt. Col. H. R. Carmichael M.C. and of the late Lt. Col. P.A.E. Dumas. Mother of Sarah, Hugh and Mark, loving grandmother and great-grandmother. Cremation private. Service of Thanksgiving for family and friends at St. Saviours Church, Brockenhurst, on Thursday 14th January at 2.30pm. No flowers, by her request, but donations if desired, to the Chief Executive, King Edward VII Hospital for Officers, 10 Beaumont Street, London W1N 2AA.

CLAPHAM - His Honour Brian Ralph, retired Circuit Judge, on December 20th peacefully in hospital following a stroke, aged 85. Much loved husband of Margaret and father of Andrew and Russell. Service of Thanksgiving at St. Lawrence Church for family and close friends. No flowers please. Donations in his memory if wished to Tonbridge Teen and Twenty (Youth) Club c/o Margaret Clapham, 10 Bounds Oak Way, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 0UB.

CLIFFORD - Barbara Mary (née Peel) on 27th December at The Downs House, Petersfield, after Christmas with her family. Wife of the late Lt. Colonel W.H. Clifford, mother of Olivia Hall-Craggs. Funeral at St. Laurence's R.C. Church, Petersfield, 2.00pm Thursday 14th January, followed by burial at All Saints', Steep. Family flowers only please, but donations to National Deaf Children's Society, 15 Dufferin Street, London EC1 or Hearing Research Trust, 330-332 Grays Inn Road, London WC1.

COLMAN - Beatrice Helen (née Roberts) on December 31st at West Middlesex Hospital following a stroke. Very much missed by husband, relatives and innumerable friends. Cremation at Mortlake Crematorium at 4 pm on Monday 11th January. No flowers please.

COOKE - Maureen Elizabeth. On 1st January 1999, peacefully at home after a happy family Christmas and following a long and courageous fight. Beloved wife of Peter, dearly loved mother of Nicholas, Caroline, Andrew and Stephanie and devoted grandmother of Robin, Melanie and Emily. Funeral Service at St Mary's Church, Old Amersham on Monday 11th January at 3.30pm. Family flowers only please; donations, if desired, to the South Bucks Hospice, Amersham Road, High Wycombe. Any enquiries to HC Grimstead Ltd, Chalfont St Peter. Tel 01753 891200.

CORNISH - Maurice Frank M.B.E. (Mily), B.A., Capt. (retd) Int. Corps. Nicknames "Pete" or "Rocky" died peacefully in hospital on December 31st 1998 aged 86 years. Modern Language Master at Great Yarmouth, Scarborough and City of London School. Beloved husband of Norah (née Keech), Jill Atkins (daughter) and son Peter, son-in-law Robert and daughter-in-law Chris, grandchildren William and Susan Atkins and Sarah and Roger. Much loved by us all. Private cremation, followed by Thanksgiving Service in Bressingham Church on Monday January 11th at 2.30pm. Family flowers only please, but donations if wished to the Intelligence Corps Benevolent Fund, may be sent c/o Rackham's Funeral Service, Stanley Road, Diss, Norfolk.

d'AMBRUMENIL - Paul, after a long illness, died at home on Wednesday 30th December, much beloved husband of Lyn and brother of Christopher. Private Funeral.

DEACON - Karen Olga Marie much loved wife of John and mother of Timothy, Paul, Christopher and Louise, peacefully on 31st December at St Peter's Hospital, Chertsey. Funeral 4.30 pm Wednesday 6th January at St Mary's Oatlands. Family flowers only please.

DRAYCOTT - Anne on December 29th ,peacefully after a short illness, sadly missed by husband Alan and children Terry, Steve, Susi, Calli and their children. Cremation in Bournemouth on Friday 8th January at 3.30pm. Family flowers only, donations to Wessex Heartbeat Appeal at FW House F/D, Lymington, Hants.

EVANS - (Nan) Hannah Mary (née Walters), aged 88, peacefully at the Marie Curie Hospice, Hampstead on Monday 28th December. Beloved wife of operatic tenor Edgar Evans; dear mother of Huw, mother-in-law to Nicola and grandmother of Rebecca and Edward. Funeral service to be held at Golders Green Crematorium on Wednesday 6th January at 2.45pm. Flowers, or donations to the Marie Curie Hospice c/o L J Butler & Son Ltd, Kenton, HA3 8DN. Tel: 0181 907 3163 / 4452

EWENS - Eric George Ewens, Writer, Dramatist and former BBC Radio Script Editor, died peacefully on Wednesday afternoon, 23rd December 1998, at Battle Hospital, Reading, after a short illness. Private cremation on Tuesday 12th January followed by a service for family and friends at St. Mary's Church, Whitchurch-on-Thames, Oxon, near Pangbourne at 1.00pm. For further information call 0118 984 2409.

FARRELL - John aged 72 died peacefully on 31st December. Husband of Alexandra, father of Clare, Ursula, Aidan, Jerome, Dominic and Ruth. Grandfather to 23 grandchildren. Requiem Mass at Clifton Cathedral, Bristol on Tuesday January 12th at 12 noon. No flowers, donations if desired to the Frances Taylor Hospice, St. Mary's Hospital, Upper Byron Place, Bristol, BS8 1JU.

FISHER - Peacefully on December 28th 1998 in his 83rd year Edward Henry Lindesay, late R.A. Much loved by his family and friends. Private cremation.

FLETCHER - Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter - on January 2nd 1999, aged 82. Much loved husband of Isobel, father of Anne and Elizabeth and grandfather of Amanda and Lucy. All enquiries to Chelsea Funeral Directors, 0171 352 0008.

FORD - Miriam Margaret of Yarcombe, Devon, widow of Mortimer Noel Ford TD.DL on 1st January 1999 in her 93th year. Remembrance service at Yarcombe Church Devon on January 18th 1999 at 2.30pm.

GEE - Timothy Hugh died at Charterhouse on Christmas Evening. Father of Pippin, Harry and Hermione. Funeral at St. Etheldreda's, Ely Place, London EC1 at 11.00am, on January 7th. Flowers or donations for Macmillan Nurses to J.H. Kenyon, 74 Rochester Row, London, SW1P 1JU. Tel: 0171 834 4624.

GREEN - Suddenly at her home Bylands, Woking, Sylvia Green. Dearly loved wife, mother and grandmother, on 3rd January. Funeral at Woking Crematorium, Tuesday 12th January at 10 am. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Arthritis Care. Any enquiries to Cyril Lovegrove F/D 01483 773456.

GUNN - Violet Eleanor, widow of Air Marshal Sir George Gunn, on December 31st, aged 89. Very much loved mother of Donald Gunn and Jill Valentine, grandmother of Emma, Jamie, Sophie, George and Henry and great-grandmother of Anna. Family only funeral service on Friday January 8th.

GUNN - William George David OBE (David), formerly of the BBC Overseas Service died on Christmas night. Now with his beloved Winifred. Service at St Anne's, Kew Green, Thursday 7th January 11.45 am.

GURLING - Winifred Margaret, widow of Major Charles Gurling, of London, W1, peacefully on Christmas morning after severe illness. Funeral Service on Wednesday 6th January at St. George's, Hanover Square, at 2.30pm. Flowers may be sent to Leverton & Sons Ltd., 212 Eversholt Street, NW1.

HALE - On 21st December 1998, in a tragic road accident, Paul Hale of Nyabira, Zimbabwe. Beloved husband of Sacha Jane Hale (née Secrett), son of Warwick and Sue and son-in-law to Robert and Jill Secrett.

HARRIS - Nigel Mayne Wilfred, in his 90th year, formerly of Shanghai and Khartoum, died peacefully on the evening of 2nd January 1999, after a short illness bravely borne. Beloved husband of Merren and dearest father of Alan, Tessa, Susie and David and a loving grandfather. Memorial service (no mourning clothes please) at St. Peter's Church, Duntisbourne Abbots, Cirencester on Saturday 16th January at 12 noon. Family flowers only. Donations to Harnhill Centre of Christian Healing, Cirencester, Glos. GL7 5PX, if desired.

HERBERT - Patricia Winsome (née Sullivan), beloved wife of Myles Herbert, mother of Julian and Robin, peacefully in Camberley, on December 30th. Cremation private. A Service of Thanksgiving for her life will be held at St Michael's Church, London Road, Camberley, at 12 noon on Saturday January 9th. No flowers by request but donations, if desired, to St Michael's Church, c/o Camberley & District Funeral Directors, 337 Yorktown Road, Sandhurst, GU47 4QA (01276-33241).

HOLDSWORTH - Dom Philip David, monk of Ampleforth on 31st December 1998. Requiem Mass 5th January 1999, 12 noon at Ampleforth Abbey.

HOLLOWAY - Olive Georgina (née Collins) peacefully on 28th December at the Royal Marsden Hospital, Sutton. A brave and lovely lady, much loved and missed by David, Sharon and Mike, grandchildren, family and friends. Service at St Andrew's Church, Oxshott, Surrey, on Thursday 7th January at 11:45 am. Family flowers only please, if desired, donations to Cancer Research Campaign, c/o James & Thomas Ltd FD, Mill Road, Cobham, Surrey KT11 3AL. Tel:01932 862008.

HOWARD - Lt. Col. J T C Howard M.C. of East Pennard, Somerset, peacefully on 30th December 1998 aged 79 years. A much loved father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral Service at All Saints Church, East Pennard on Monday, 11th January 1999 at 2.00 pm. Family flowers only. Enquiries and if desired donations for Army Benevolent Fund or All Saints East Pennard Church Building Trust c/o Forsey and Son, 28 High Street, Butleigh, Glastonbury, Somerset.

JAMES - Susan, on 1st January 1999, peacefully aged 85. Dearly beloved widow of Kenneth Turner James and mother of Louise and Brian, and a treasured grandmother and great grandmother. Poetess and the warmest friend. Private family cremation. Service of Celebration on Friday 8th January 1999 at 11.30am at St. Mary's Church, Stoke Road, Stoke D'Abernon, Cobham, followed by lunch at Woodlands Park Hotel. Donations if desired to be sent to St. Mary's Church c/o L Hawkins & Sons, Highlands Road, Leatherhead KT22 8ND.

LEVI - On 4th January 1999, Alfred Jonathan (Jon), M.D., F.R.C.P., peacefully at home after a long fight against pancreatic cancer, borne with exceptional courage and dignity, and surrounded by his beloved and loving wife Mary and children David, Sophie, Carla and Rachel. Funeral service at The West London Synagogue, Upper Berkeley Street, London W1 at 1.30 pm on Wednesday 6th January, followed by interment at approximately 3pm at Hoop Lane Jewish Cemetery, Golders Green, London NW11. Prayers at home at 8pm that evening. At Jon's request there will be no memorial service. No flowers please, but donations may be sent to Dr David Cunningham's Research Fund, Royal Marsden Hospital, Downs Road, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5PT.

LEWIN - Deborah (Debby) on December 31st, aged 68, suddenly in hospital, devoted wife of the late Dick Lewin, very much loved mother of Richard and Sarah and mother-in-law of Ann, dear Grandma Debby to Katie and Caroline and beloved sister of Liz. Funeral on Friday, January 8th, at St. Margaret's Church, Corsley, Wilts, at 2.00pm. Family flowers only please, but donations to the National Osteoporosis Society and International Glaucoma Association may be sent to W. Adlam & Son, 68 Locks Hill, Frome, Somerset. BA11 1NH (01373 452100).

LILLER - On New Years Day in his 80th Year, Kenneth Wolstenholme, darling husband of Joan for 55 years, beloved father of Jane and Helen and dear grandfather of James, Alexander, William and Frances. Funeral St. Lawrence Church, Lechlade, Glos on 11th January at 2.15pm, followed by private Cremation. Donations, if wished, to Cystic Fibrosis or British Heart Foundation c/o Baker & Sons, 5 Park Road, Faringdon, Oxon. SN7 7BP.

LOVE - Colonel Stephen, MBE. Suddenly on January 1st beloved husband of Robin, much loved father of Jeremy, Jonathan and Tim and loving grandfather of five. Small family funeral at Blackawton January 16th; Thanksgiving Service at St Mary's Brixham, February 6th 2.00 pm. All enquiries and any donations (if desired) for Army Benevolent Association Fund to R. C. Pillar & Sons, Dartmouth 01803 832121.

MARSDEN - On December 31st, Major Peter Slingsby MC, MA, ex Rifle Brigade and Highland Light Infantry, first Principal of Riseholme. Much loved husband, father and grandfather. Private cremation followed by Service of Thanksgiving at St Michael's Church, Hackthorn on Tuesday January 12th at 2 pm. Family flowers only, donations in lieu if desired for RABI and medical charities may be sent to CC Moore, Main Street, Hackthorn, Lincoln LN2 3PW.

MATHEW - Theobald David, formerly of the College of Arms. Much loved and missed by all his family and friends. Private Funeral and Cremation, followed by a Requiem Mass at Blackfriars, Oxford, on Saturday 23rd January at 12 noon.

MORRISON - Peacefully on December 31st, 1998, Rome, aged 78 years, widow of Howard Edward, greatly missed by son Howard, daughter Gail and families.

NAPIER - Grace Edythe Muriel (née Young) aged 99, on 3rd January 1999, after a short illness, dearly loved wife of the late Brigadier Jack Napier, devoted mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral, Drewsteignton Parish Church, 2.30pm Thursday 7 January. No flowers, donations if desired to Drewsteignton PCC c/o S J Backwell, Brookdale, 32a, Brook Street, Tavistock.

NORTH - Patricia Mary (Trish) on January 1st, died peacefully in her sleep, at home. Funeral Service on Thursday 14th January at 12.15pm at Ipswich Crematorium, North Chapel. Family flowers only, but donations if desired, for Arthritis & Rheumatism Council to E.R. Button & Sons Ltd, 24 St. John's Street, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 1ER.

OFFORD - Colonel Eric KTR at home on January 1st, 1999, aged 89 years. Funeral Service in the Church of St. Lawrence, Affpuddle on Thursday January 7th, noon.Flowers or donations to KTR Benevolent Fund, may be sent to Albert (Funeral Directors) Ltd., St. Michaels Road, Wareham, Dorset BH20 4QU. Tel: 01929 552107.

PARSONS - Elizabeth Helen (Betty), formerly of Lymington and Burley, peacefully in her sleep at East Wittering on January 1st, in her 92nd year. Much loved mother (5), grandmother (13) and "Granny-the-Great" (5). Cremation at Chichester Crematorium 11.30am Tuesday 12th January. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to British Driving Society c/o Edward White and Co., 5 South Pallant, Chichester.

PEPPER - Roland Neville, on 2nd January, peacefully at Resthaven, near Painswick, Gloucestershire, aged 88 years. Funeral Service at St. Mary's Church, Painswick on Friday 8th January at 12 noon followed by private burial. Enquiries to Philip Ford & Son Funeral Directors (01453 763592).

PRESTON - Maureen, Medical Practitioner, On January 1st 1999, aged 93 years, peacefully at Polebrooke Nursing Home. Widow of The Rev. C. G. A. Preston; mother of Denise, Hugh and Fiona. Funeral Service Friday, January 8th at 1:00pm in Cotterstock Parish Church. Family flowers only. Enquiries to Crowson's Funeral Directors, Barnwell. Tel: 01832 272269.

RIDGE - Suddenly on 30th December Alison Hope aged 88 years. Beloved wife of Keith and a loving mother and grandmother. Funeral service at St Marys' Church, Leigh, Kent on Thursday 14th January at 12 noon. Family flowers only but donations to Cancer Research, c/o Ord-Hume Funeral Services, tel 01732 353746.

SCOTT - Joyce Dorrell Scott, previously King née Parker of Newton Burgoland. Died at home on 3rd January 1999 aged 79 years. Funeral at St. Peter's Church on January 12th. Enquiries to W.B. Bradford Funeral Directors. Tel: 01530 270380.

SHEPHERD - John died peacefully at Joseph Weld Hospice on December 28th. Service at the United Church, South Street, Dorchester at 12:30 pm on January 11th. Family flowers only please but if desired donations may be made to Joseph Weld Hospice through Woods (Dorchester) Ltd. 01305 262666.

SHORT - Elizabeth Dorothy (Liz), peacefully in London on December 27th. Widow of Squadron Leader Tony Short, leaves a daughter Amanda, a grandson, Thomas and many friends. Funeral at Mortlake Crematorium on January 11th at 3pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Pembridge Palliative Care Centre, St Charles' Hospital, Exmoor Street, London W10 6DZ.

SHRIVE - Michael Arthur suddenly on December 15th aged 74. Much loved father of Pamela and Julian and much loved friend of Fiona. Funeral service at 4 pm at Mortlake Crematorium, Kew Meadow Path, Townmead Road, Richmond. Inquiries: WS Bond, 0181 743 4241.

SPURLING - Barbara Mary, aged 88, died peacefully on December 29th in Abbey View Nursing Home, Sherborne. Funeral at Iwerne Minster on January 11th at 11.30am. Family flowers only, donations if desired, to Oxfam or Joseph Weld Hospice, c/o Esson Funeral Services, Newell, Sherborne, Dorset DT9 4EZ.

STAFFARD - On December 29th at home, Charlton Smith, dear husband of Jane, father of Ghislaine and grandfather of Maisie and Arthur. Funeral at St. John's Church, Pinner, on 7th January at 1.00pm, followed by cremation at Breakspeare Crematorium, Ruislip at 1.45 pm. Enquiries to TA Ellement and Son, Pinner. 0181 866 0324.

STEEDMAN - George. Peacefully in Malton Hospital with family around him on News Years Eve 1998 aged 82 years. Husband of Nan, father of Mark, Jane, and John and grandfather of Hester, Adam (Sam) and Sarah. Funeral Service at St. Johns Church Newton upon Rawcliffe on Friday 8th January at 2.00 pm. Family flowers only please.

STEVENSON - Katherine (née Macvicar) much loved wife of Jamie and mother of Laura, Peter and Guy, and beloved daughter of Marily and Nell, and sister of Amanda and Stephen. Peacefully at home on 2nd January, after a short illness. Funeral on Thursday 7th January at 2.30pm at St. Paul's Church, Clapham. Friends welcome. Donations to "Katherine's Parenting Project" c/o Midland Bank, 117 Balham High Road, London SW12 9AS.

STILLIARD - Norman of Norwood Green, Middlesex on January 2nd. Beloved husband of Rachel, devoted father of Phillip, Gwenda, Howard (decd.) and Catherine. A loving grandfather. Funeral Service at St Mary's, Norwood Green at 11 am on 8th January.

STUART DOUGLAS - Rachel Mary Ingilby (née Bairstow) nearly 78 years old, died peacefully at Petworth Cottage Nursing Home on 28th December. An oblate of Ampleforth and beloved wife of Jim, mother of the late Mark and of Joanna Hall, and "Ninnin" to Thomas, Cathy and many friends. Requiem at Petworth Catholic Church at 11.00 am on Friday 8th January, followed by burial at Duncton. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Petworth Cottage Nursing Home or CAFOD via Funeral Directors W Bryder & Sons Tillington Petworth, West Sussex GU28 9AB Tel: 01798 342174.

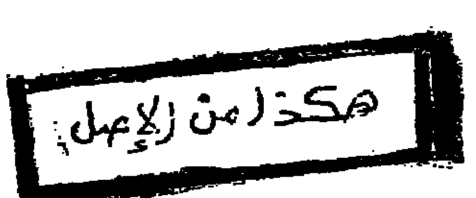
STUTFIELD - Helen Mary (Helen Lowry). On December 31st 1998, at Cromer Hospital, dearly loved sister, aunt, grand aunt and great-grand aunt. Funeral at St. Martin's Church, Overstrand, Norfolk, on Thursday January 14th at 2.15pm. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for the Actors' Church Union c/o Fox's Funeral Services, 10 Canada Road, Cromer. A Memorial Service will be held in London at a date to be announced.

TAIT - Peacefully at the Borders General Hospital, Melrose on December 23rd 1998 in her 85th year, Marjorie, widow of Peter Guthrie Tait, (Colonial Service, Kenya), a dearly loved mother of 7, grandmother of 16 and a great grandmother.

TEGETMEIER - Petra Helen peacefully on 1st January 1999. Requiem at St Thomas More, Bradford-on-Avon, 9th January at 11.30 am.

TENCONI - Margaret (née Cresswell) of Eastbourne, Sussex, in peace on 23rd December 1998. Wife of Marcel (deceased) and devoted mother to and much loved by sons John and Simon. Service and Cremation, 11.15am Friday 8th January 1999, at Eastbourne Crematorium. Enquiries Haine & Son, tel 01323 727801.

TOM - Peacefully on December 20th, 1998 in her 90th year Denise Rachel, dear sister of Joan and the late Jack. All enquiries to Greens Funeral Services, 21 High Street, Eynsham, Witney, Oxon OX8 1HE. Tel: 01865 880372.



OBITUARIES

THE DUKE OF RUTLAND

Charles John Robert *Manners*, *10th Duke* of Rutland, CBE, died on January 3 aged 79. He was born on May 28, 1919.

Charles, Duke of Rutland, had the unusual distinction of being the prototype of the hero in many a Barbara Cartland novel, thanks to his distinguished looks and circumstances. He lived at Belvoir Castle, a romantic castle with turrets and rooms full of armour and peacocks strutting the "lordly terraces". He owned the 13th-century Haddon Hall, so lovingly restored by his father. He was the head of the Manners family and a well known national figure, partly because he was married to Frances Sweeny, daughter of the controversial Margaret Duchess of Argyll, and partly because of his prolonged battles with the National Coal Board.

The Manners family came originally from Northumberland, where the Duke's ancestor, Sir Robert de Manners, was Governor of Norham Castle in the early 14th century. They became Barons de Ros, then Earls of Rutland, and finally Dukes. The 12th Lord Ros married Anne Plantagenet, sister of Edward IV, and it was to his son, Thomas, a courtier and 1st Earl of Rutland, that Henry VIII gave Belvoir Castle, with land in Leicestershire. The 8th Earl of Rutland inherited Haddon Hall and land in Derbyshire from his grandmother, Dorothy Vernon, and in 1703 the 9th Earl was made *Duke of* Rutland for his loyalty to Queen Anne.

Charles was the eldest son of the 9th Duke and *his wife* Kathleen, a member of the extensive Tennant clan and a niece of Margot Asquith. He *was christened Charles* John Robert and educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, gaining his degree in 1940. *He then served* in the Grenadier Guards as a captain. Subsequently he was a county councillor for Leicestershire (and later *chairman of* the council), became a Deputy Lieutenant in 1950, and was a JP. He was Master of the Belvoir Foxhounds from 1940, and Joint Master from 1947. He was area president of the East Midlands Conservatives. He succeeded his father as 10th Duke a month before his 21st birthday in 1940 and was appointed CBE in 1962.

In 1946 he married his first wife, Anne Cumming Bell, who subsequently made a name as a model, using the title Anne Duchess of Rutland. They had one daughter, Charlotte, but divorced in 1956. His second wife was Frances Sweeny, whom he married in 1958. She was the daughter of the American millionaire Charles Sweeny and his wife Margaret, at the time of the marriage the third wife of the 11th Duke of Argyll.

Frances Sweeny had many suitors but, in the words of the Duchess of Argyll, the Duke *was* "the most persistent of them all". The union was much encouraged by Margaret Argyll, who invited him on a celebrated tour of the Middle East in 1958, on which the three were pursued mercilessly by the press. There was one humorous moment when a journalist was arrested by an Arab soldier, who inquired of the Duchess: "Shall we kill *him now?*"

Eventually, Frances overcame her Roman Catholic worries about marrying a *divorced Protestant, 18 years* her senior. The wedding was celebrated with a reception at Claridge's, a family piper lead*ing the young couple into the* ballroom. They had three sons, the present Marquess of Granby in 1959, Robert, who died of leukaemia *in 1964 aged two*, and Lord Edward Manners. There was also one daughter, Lady Teresa, born in 1962, who attracted *much media* attention in her twenties (notably *for being caught in a passionate* embrace while driving on the M6 in August 1983).

Dukes attract publicity in *other ways, and Rutland was* no exception. In 1939 he was *involved in a late-night collision* with a telegraph pole (in a car containing the future Duke of Devonshire) when *returning from a party in* London. In 1953 he was fined for speeding. He and both his wives suffered numerous robberies. A £5,000 painting was stolen in 1968, and there were *numerous jewellery thefts:* £7,000 worth stolen in London in 1948, an even more valuable haul taken from the Duchess's *suitcase on a train in 1960 and* a further substantial theft in London in December 1965. In 1976 four paintings and an oak carving were *stolen* from Haddon.

The Duke was *forever* buying and selling hotels in the Derbyshire area, a notable purchase being the Izaak Walton Hotel at Dovedale. He opened Belvoir Castle and Haddon to the public, and enjoyed friendly rivalry with his old Cambridge friend the Duke of Devonshire. Speaking at Chatsworth, he said: "While you are putting your half-crowns in my good friend the Duke of Devonshire's till, may I remind you that we *also* give good value for the same money at Haddon."

In 1967 he got into trouble *for shooting during the foot* and mouth epidemic, and in April 1982 he spoke out against a proposed ban on *foxhunting, being proud to* own the longest established pack of foxhounds in the country. In 1983 he was forced *to sell the Rutland Psalters*, which raised nearly £2 million for a maintenance fund for Belvoir.

The Rutlands returned to the headlines over the years because *of the difficult relationship* of the Duchess with her mother, Margaret Argyll. Their differences developed *from the childhood illness* of the heir, and in 1970 the Duchess of Argyll was banned from Belvoir after accusing her daughter of "posing as a devout Catholic". Thereafter early wounds proved too deep to heal, though the Duchess supported her mother in a nursing home in her last years.

The Duke was also well-known for his extended battle with the National Coal Board. In 1977 he resisted its attempts to mine three fields in the choicest farming and hunting *land of Leicestershire* and later threatened to "lie down in front of the first bulldozer". He did not think that the *potential* subsidence and damage to the community was justified, given that the need for coal had greatly dimin*ished. He incurred hostility* from the Labour MP Dennis Skinner, who pointed out that the Duke was chairman of the *East Midlands Economic Planning* Council, and said "As soon as there is the opportunity of finding some jobs on his *land he tries to stop it*".

The Duke then gave an interview to a tabloid newspaper, and was heard to mutter: "I suppose I shall have to pose in the nude." In 1980s there *was an 83-day inquiry*, and four years later only one pit was mined, at Asfordby.

A couple of years ago the *Duke had a comical disagreement* with the Alliance & Leicester Building Society when it became a bank and sent *him* a £1,000 windfall. *He* claimed that because he had invested a fortune in the society, he was entitled to much more than *the* ordinary investor. He did not get it.

The Duke was a kind man, modest, unassuming and sometimes vague (he lost the ashes of his great-uncle, Lord Cecil Manners, by failing to mark the spot of burial). *Occasionally he expressed* reactionary views, as when he declared in 1960: "If parents had smacked the little devils' *behinds when they were smaller*, you would not have had so much juvenile crime." He and his wife entertained frequently at *Belvoir*.

He is succeeded in the dukedom by his son from his second marriage, the Mar*quess of Granby*. *His wife, his* younger son and a daughter from that marriage also survive him, together with the *daughter from his first marriage*.


The Duke of Rutland at Belvoir, 1996

SIR WILLIAM STUTTAFORD

Sir William Stuttaford, CBE, former Chairman of the Unit Trusts Association and President of the *National Union of* Conservative and Unionist Associations, died on January 2 aged 70. *He was born on* November 21, 1928.

BILL STUTTAFORD was one *of the most respected of his* generation in the City. He was quintessentially a City man of the old school, with the gravitas and charm of a figure from a novel by Galsworthy but without the portentousness. His flexibility and acute intelligence enabled him to adapt to the successive revolutions in the financial world over the past 40 years, and to temper the policy of the *various* City firms in which he was involved so that they, and their clients, prospered exceedingly.

William Royden Stuttaford was born at Horning in Norfolk, the eldest son of Dr William and Marjorie Stutta*ford. He was not destined for a* City career. At Gresham's, Holt, where he was head of school, he revelled in classics, mathematics and physics and seemed set for a career in either the Church or medicine.

However, after Trinity College, Oxford, and National Service with the 10th Royal Hussars, he decided on a diplomatic career but he failed the Foreign Office exam by one place. He was accepted with the proviso that he retake the exam, but again he was *proxime accessit*. Ever grateful for the training, *he* nonetheless refused all suggestions of staying on and determined on a career in the City.



After a comparatively short *time as a fund manager with* an insurance company, he joined the stockbrokers Laurence Keen & Gardner, becom*ing a partner in 1959. His firm* later amalgamated to form Laurence Prust and in 1983 he became senior partner.

Stuttaford always championed the expansion of share ownership. Working within Laurence Keen & Gardner, he *formed his first unit trust* — the Guernsey Trust — and a few years later he started Framlington, which was to prove one of the most successful of the unit trusts, and won numerous awards. He was chairman of the Framlington Group, 1983-89, and of the Unit Trust Association, 1987-89.

He attributed the success of his teams to a combination of *informality and efficiency*. *He* offered his colleagues loyalty and a free rein, but he had no patience with the ethos of the *long lunch or any conspicuous* display of wealth. Once when the appointment of a finance director was being finalised, *the candidate added almost as* an afterthought that he assumed he would have a company Porsche. Stuttaford, *shocked, explained that he* himself drove a very elderly family car and Porsches were not part of the company image. The man insisted, and the contract was torn up. Stuttaford's own car shortly afterwards burst into flames, and *he* was lucky to escape with a scorching.

After the sale of Framlington, Stuttaford became deputy chairman of Brown Shipley with the remit of arranging an advantageous sale. In 1994 he became chairman of Invesco (Europe) and a member of the board of Amvescap. He held many other directorships in the banking and insurance world and was a member of the Takeover Panel.

For many years he lectured at the City University; he was a member of the investment committee of the University of Kent, adviser to the special trustees of St Thomas' Hospital, financial adviser to the Rayne Foundation, a medical charity, and for many years a committee member of the Africa Centre.

Politics were another great interest. He was chairman of the Conservative Party Political Centre, chairman of his local constituency in Essex and, from 1986 to 1989, of the East of England Conservatives. He became vice-chairman of the National Union of Conservative Associations and later its president, and chairman of the party conference. Appointed OBE in 1983 and advanced to CBE in 1989, he was knighted in 1995.

Apart from politics and finance, his interests centred on his family, the Church — he was a churchwarden at his local church for 25 years — and latterly racing. In 1957 he married Sarah, daughter of the late Philip Legge; although the marriage was dissolved, they remained friends and she survives him, together with their two sons and two daughters.

In 1974 *he* married, secondly, D'Esterre Grahame, daughter of the late Captain Sir Gerald Curteis, who shared, with good humour and loyalty, his many interests. She also survives him, with his two stepchildren.

SEBASTIAN HAFFNER

***Sebastian Haffner*, *German* author, died in Berlin on January 2 aged 91. He was born on December 27, 1907.**

SEBASTIAN HAFFNER was one of modern Germany's most respected journalists and commentators. *What* was perhaps less well-known was that, as a political exile living in London during the Second World War and for almost a *decade* thereafter, he became a key figure in British journalism. One of David Astor's remarkable team of outstanding writers (who included George Orwell and Isaac Deutscher), Haffner helped to make *The Observer*, for a time, one of the most influential liberal newspapers of the Western world.

He had acquired British nationality in 1948, regarding himself as "the Prussian with a British passport". Yet, despite constituting an element of continuity between the two German Republics and a Britain fighting Hitler's Third Reich, Haffner curiously came to regard his English exile as little more than a temporary, and not entirely significant, interlude in a career forged from an overwhelming concern for Germany, its recent history and its future direction.

Haffner was proud of his striking Sorb (or Wend) appearance and origins (the Sorbs were Slavs, regarded as racially distinct from the Germans). He was born in the capital of the Wilhelmine Reich as Raimund Pretzel. Trained as a lawyer, he was also an occasional journalist for Weimar papers. By 1936, with the Nazis in power, he decided that to pursue his chosen career as a judge would hardly be honourable, and he turned to journalism full-time. His sense of outrage at what was happening in Germany was sharpened by his acquisition of a Jewish girlfriend. Deeply shocked by the horror of the 1938 *Kristallnacht*, he understood that the new Germany could no longer be their home.

He fled to Britain in 1939, and lived in Wimbledon, where he at once began to write. His English soon became superb. In order to protect his family inside the Third Reich he took the pseudonym by which he became famous (a keen music-lover as well as a *nationalist*, *he lifted* the "Sebastian" from Bach, and the "Haffner" from a symphony by Mozart). His first book on Hitler, *Germany: Jekyll & Hyde*, published by Secker & Warburg in 1940, was acclaimed in Britain as *one of the first books to attack* Hitler and Nazism from a conservative perspective, so giving the lie to the wide*spread notion* that the only opposition worth recognition came from the Left. Precisely because it appealed to decent German *nationalism*, rather than socialist or communist revolution, it seemed, usefully, to be capable of striking chords inside Germany as well.

This book had two important consequences. The first was that Haffner came to the attention of the British Foreign Office. This period, which finally ended with the German invasion of Russia in the summer of 1941, has been called the "unwinding of appeasement". At least some members of the British Government were still keen to drive, if they possibly could, a wedge between the Nazis and the German people. This offered opportunities to all those Germans, few in number but entirely noble in spirit, who sincerely wanted to destroy Hitler. One result was the creation by the Foreign Office of a German language newspaper, called simply *Die Zeitung*, whose aim was the marshalling of the Nazis' German enemies. Haffner was seen as an ideal candidate for the editorship.



Through his book he also came to the attention of the remarkable David Astor, in secret war service but already being groomed by his father (who owned *The Observer*) as a future Editor. Astor (a friend of Adam von Trott, who was executed for his part in the 1944 conspiracy against Hitler) admired Haffner's intellectual and journalistic skills as much as *his political stance*.

In 1941 Haffner began to write for *The Observer* (resigning from *Die Zeitung* in 1943, by which time Whitehall's support for anti-Nazi Germans had evaporated entirely). He soon became its chief leader *writer and established for it an* enviable reputation as a paper which took foreign policy analysis as seriously as domestic comment. Haffner was convinced that Hitler in his drive towards the Caucasus would overstretch himself in the Soviet Union, and that this would lead to his ultimate defeat. It was Haffner, too (enthusiastically encouraged by Astor), who ensured that *The Observer* supported American involvement in European affairs.

Haffner became a British subject in 1948, but assumed German nationality again in 1972. He returned to divided Berlin in 1954, initially still under contract to *The Observer*. He chose the once and future capital, rather than Bonn, because he believed that it would be the major European source of conflict between the two superpowers. As a Berliner, he sought German-German rapprochement, even floating the idea that a neutral German nation could provide a much-needed buffer between capitalism and communism. He came to support *Ostpolitik* for this reason, even though he was no Social Democrat.

Increasingly disenchanted with American policy in Europe, he soon turned his back on *The Observer* and severed contact with Astor, much to the latter's disappointment. Within the German press, he quickly became popular for his original and often iconoclastic *viewpoints*. He once said that it was a journalist's task to dramatise perfectly ordinary differences of opinion. His first post was with *Christ und Welt*; he then wrote for *Die Welt* and, after 1962, had a weekly column in *Stern* magazine. Impishly, he also wrote for *Konkret*, Ulrike Meinhof's outrageous *avant garde* paper, which became the bible of the student protest movement.

After 1975 he concentrated on writing books: his *Notes on Hitler* (1978), written for a young readership, and his study of Prussia (1979) were considerable successes. He was a frequent chat-show guest on television. In 1984, on being asked who his heroes were, he replied without any hesitation whatsoever: "Bismarck — and Churchill." In a curious way, he was a missing *link between them*, a "good" German of the Right, who spanned the numerous reinventions of his homeland and was able to celebrate durable democracy within it.

His wife, son and daughter survive him.

ON THIS DAY

January 5, 1920

Henry Wickham Steed, then Editor of The Times *reviewed Keynes's* Economic Consequences of the Peace. *He concluded "in writing this book he has rendered the Allies a disservice for which their enemies will, doubtless, be grateful." John Maynard Keynes died in 1946.*

A CANDID CRITIC OF THE PEACE

Mr. J. M. Keynes has written an extremely "clever" book on the Peace Conference and its economic consequences. It is the work of an erudite university don who was attached as adviser to the British Treasury during the war, and represented the Treasury officially at the Paris Peace Conference up to June 7, 1919. He also sat as deputy for the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the Supreme Economic Council. He states that "he resigned from these positions when it became evident that hope could no longer be entertained of substantial modification in the draft Terms of Peace". The purpose of his book is, he avers, to set forth "*the grounds of his objection to the Treaty* or, rather, to the whole policy of the Conference towards the economic problems of Europe".

Readers are thus prepared for a critical economic treatise. *In* some respects they will not be disappointed. In others they will be surprised, amused, shocked, and not a little mystified. How came it, they may ask, that the man who could write the pages of incisive portraiture, not to say caricature, that fill the chapter on "The Conference," came to hold the position of technical adviser to one of the most technical Departments of State? How, unless *his bias had been throughout akin to that of* the conscientious objector, could he place the Allies persistently on the same moral level as Germany in regard to the war?

Throughout his book Mr. Keynes protests with scarcely veiled passion against the iniquities of the Peace Conference and of the Peace itself. The main iniquity in his eyes is the Allied "breach of faith" with Germany, who laid down her arms on conditions set forth in President Wilson's speeches but progressively violated, with his assent, by the Allied Governments during the negotiation of the Treaty. This, at least, is Mr. Keynes's main argument. In some respects he makes out a strong case. But, as a whole, his cry against the Peace seems to us the cry of an academic mind, accustomed to deal with the abstractions of that largely metaphysical *exercise known as "political economy," in* revolt against the facts and forces of actual political existence.

One illuminating passage in the introduc*tory chapter may supply a clue to his obvious* distress. "At any *rate*," he writes, "an Englishman who took part in the Conference of Paris and was during those months a member of the Supreme Economical Council of the Allied Powers, was bound to become, *for him a new experience* (the italics are ours), a European in his cares and outlook. There, at the nerve centre of the European system, his British *preoccupations* must largely fall away and he must be haunted by other and more dreadful spectres." If in the early months of 1919, it was "a new experience" for a prominent and *responsible English official to feel and to think* as a European, that official can never have understood the war. Still less can he have been fitted to handle the peace problems in Paris, every one of which was conditioned by the origin and the course of the war. Indeed, one of the most striking features of Mr Keynes's book is the political inexperience, not to say ingenuousness, which it reveals . . .

DEATHS

TYMMS - Dorothy (née Booth), peacefully on 1st January in hospital (Darlington) aged 81 years, darling wife of Canon Wilfrid Tymms, much loved mother of Susan, Peter and James, a dear mother-in-law and loving grandmother of ten. Service in St Mary's Church, Gainford, Darlington, Monday January 11th, at 12 noon, prior to private cremation at Darlington Crematorium. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu if desired may be sent to St Mary's Church, Gainford.

VENTOM - Margaret Ann. Beloved wife of the late Michael George, mother of Mark, Gerard, Jane and Felicity, and grandmother of Michael Leo. Died peacefully on New Year's Eve 1998. Funeral at St. Osmund's, Barnes, on 12th January at 1.00pm. Flowers to family. Donations to Breakthrough Breast Cancer Charity, PO Box 7012, E1 8AZ. Tel: 0171 405 5111.

WALKER - Margaret Elizabeth (Peggy) née Oliver, on Saturday 2nd January, peacefully at home in Taunton, aged 90 years. Widow of George Ronald, beloved mother of Ben and grandmother of Paul, Charles and Katherine. Funeral Service to take place at St. John's Evangelist Church, Staplegrove, Taunton, at 12.45pm on Monday 11th January. Family flowers only but donations if desired for the Somerset County Association for the Blind, may be sent c/o Taunton Funeral Service, 55 Bridge Street, Taunton, TA1 1TP.

WALSH - Ita Maud, died peacefully in her sleep on 2nd January 1999, after a short illness. Beloved wife of Michael, mother of Barry, Fiona, Breffni and Fergus and grandmother to Scarlett and Saskia. No flowers please, but donations may be made to Thames Valley Hospice, Hatch Lane, Windsor SL4 3RW.

WATSON - Lavender Kate, née Johnston, on New Years Eve peacefully in Watford General Hospital. Beloved wife of Martin, mother of Timothy and Marcus, and grandmother. Funeral private. A memorial service will be held in St James' Parish Church, Bushey at 10.30 on Wednesday, 13th January. Donations to the Benevolent Fund of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapists. Enquiries to M.K. Ginder & Sons Funeral Directors 492 Bushey Mill Lane, Watford, Herts WD2 3AS Tel 01923 221861.

WILLAN - On 31st December 1998, peacefully, James, aged 93 years, formerly of The White House, Baslow, Derbyshire. The beloved husband of the late Nadine and father of Tessa, Carole, and Peter. Funeral Service and Interment at St. Anne's Church, Baslow on Saturday January 9th at 12 noon. Flowers or donations for the Benefit of St. Anne's Church Baslow maybe sent to J. W. & J Morton Limited, Mill Street, Bakewell DE45 1DX.

WIMBUSH - Michael Douglas MBE, peacefully on 4th January aged 93. Much loved by wife Janet (deceased), son Antony, grandsons Timothy and Peter and other family and friends. Funeral Service at Exeter Crematorium on Friday 8th January at 11.00am. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Royal National Lifeboat Institution c/o Crews and Son, Exmouth EX8 1NT.

WYSARD - On December 24th, Carole-Ann Patricia Wysard (née Robins), sadly departed this life after five months of colossal fight. Beloved wife of James and sister to Charlotte. Funeral Service at All Saints' Church, Maiden Bradley, on Saturday, January 9th, at 3.00pm. Everybody welcome. Flowers may be sent to the Church. All donations, for those who cannot come, to the Imperial War Museum.

YATES - Barbara Gertrude, last surviving sister of Harry, Marjorie, Sheila and Jim. Previously of Royal Holloway College, Surrey quietly after a short sudden illness. Love from Jonathan and Susan.

YEOMAN - Idonea Evelyn Mary peacefully at the Bath Clinic on New Years Eve. Devoted to her family and late husband Philip. Unfailing and much loved mother of Charles, Penny and Andrew and loved by her nine grandchildren. Funeral service at the Bath Abbey on Wednesday January 13th at 2:30 pm. Please, no flowers, but any donations for Dorothy House Hospice c/o C.S. Bowyer Ltd Funeral Directors, 2 The Bullpit, Bradford-on-Avon.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

SEROCOLD - Ralph Serocold's Memorial Service will take place at St Mary's Church, Putney, London SW15 at 12 noon on Monday 11th January 1999. RSVP: E Serocold on 01223 215186.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

STEWART - Kyle. It is with great regret that we have to announce the passing away of a dearly loved and respected friend who passed away at 12.01am on 1st January 1999. To all that know and respected him, it will a great loss.



Michael Owen slips his second goal past Shay Given of Newcastle in Liverpool's 4-2 win last week. Owen's six points took his total to 26. Photograph: Dan Chung/Reuters

Cup break gives players chance to boost confidence

Stan Collymore, two goals against Hull City; Ibrahima Bakayoko, a brace at Bristol City; Gianluca Vialli, Steffen Iversen and Ritchie Humphreys, another two each against Oldham Athletic, Watford and Norwich City. And the crowning glory, a Darren Huckerby hat-trick as Coventry City hit seven goals past Macclesfield. Great goalscoring performances, coupled with fine defensive displays by Liverpool, Blackburn Rovers and Chelsea: unfortunately, all counting for nothing in *Times* Fantasy League terms.

With FA Cup matches not counting towards Fantasy league points totals, the form of the players mentioned above is only noteworthy inasmuch as it may signify their confidence going into the next round of Premiership games, some of which are significant indeed.

The bottom four clubs come face to face when Nottingham Forest visit Coventry, while Southampton welcome Charlton to The Dell. Wimbledon play Derby, the last time they will face anyone other than Tottenham for some time, with FA and Worthington Cup ties following hard on the heels of the league meeting at White Hart Lane.

This week's tables are updated to include the eight games play on Bank Holiday Monday (December 28) and the following evening's games between Chelsea and Manchester United and Leeds and Wimbledon.

It was a programme of matches that saw John Hartson and Ian Wright rediscover the goal touch that both had been sorely missing over previous weeks, and Arsenal remind everyone that they will not surrender their chamionship lightly with a clean sheet in victory at Charlton. Villa stayed ahead thanks to goals from defenders Ugo Ehiogu and the far-from-prolific Gareth Southgate, and Liverpool continued their recent improvement against Newcastle with two each from Michael Owen and Karlheinz Riedle.

The most impressive individual performance of the week, however, worth nine points, was that of Chris Armstrong of Tottenham, who scored three goals in the 4-1 win over Everton.

His rise to the top began at Wrexham, following a free transfer from Llay Welfare in March 1989, before a £500,000 fee took him to Millwall in 1991. His stay in the capital continued at Crystal Palace and then Tottenham, who paid Palace the surprising sum of £4,500,000 during the 1995 close season, bearing in mind that he had scored only eight goals. Injuries have often held him back at White Hart Lane but his ability to score goals has never been in doubt, and he is a deserving winner of our first Fantasy League player of the week award for 1999.



■ The prize of a magnum of champagne offered to the winner of our Christmas Fantasy quiz goes to John Evans of Llanwrtyd Wells, Powys. Of the entries received, his, surprisingly, was the only one correctly to identify and link (Santa) Claus Lundekvam, (The First) Noel Whelan, (On the feast of) Stephen Carr and Jason Euell (log) to the theme of Christmas. We'll make it easier next time.

■ Do not forget to check your team total against today's ON-Target numbers. If the numbers match, you have qualified to enter a draw which could win you £500 cash plus an EA Sports Pack. Even if your team scored no points at all in the week beginning December 28, you still have a chance of winning.

PRIZES

- ***£50,000 to the top Fantasy League manager, plus a trip for two to the European Cup final***
- ***£10,000 to the runner-up***
- ***£5,000 for third place***
- ***£1,000 monthly prizes: eight prizes of £1,000, plus £100 of Puma sports equipment***
- ***£500 weekly prizes: 36 prizes of £500, plus £100 of Puma sports equipment***
- ***£1,000 youth prize, plus monthly prizes of a Premiership football shirt***
- ***£500 weekly On-Target prize***

As I was saying

It's a bit of a shame that FA Cup games don't count in Fantasy League, isn't it?

Depending on the players in your teams, yes.

I mean, if you had Darren Huckerby, you would have got nine points for his hat-trick against Macclesfield.

Perhaps that proves that it's a good job FA Cup results *aren't* counted. Should a goal against Macclesfield Town count as much as a goal against Nottingham Forest?

About the same, wouldn't you say? Forest lost at home to Portsmouth, after all.

Yes, but Macclesfield have now gone out of the cup 7-0 two seasons in a row. And I'll bet Coventry would swap six of those goals on Saturday for one against Forest, whom they play next week.

That's a big game. If Coventry lose that one, they could be dragged back into the bottom three.

Likely to be tight, I'd say. Steer clear of attackers involved in that one if you're planning any transfers, the defenders might not be a bad risk, though.

Actually, I was thinking of a Wimbledon attacker.

Who had you planned on signing?

Well, Jason Euell, until his sending off on Saturday; but I was also having second thoughts about him because Joe Kinnear is playing him a bit deeper this season, and I'd rather have my forward picks right up front where they can get among the goals. What about Carl Leaburn? Joe seems to have great faith in him.

Probably because he didn't pay very much for him, and he likes to annoy other managers about how little his team cost. But I thought you already had a Wimbledon player in your "Favourite Players XI".

Yes, this is for one of my other teams.

You know, I'm not sure if Wimbledon players are the right ones to be looking at. All those cup ties might distract their attention from the league games.

Good point. I suppose teams like Manchester United and Chelsea need to get as many points under their belts as possible before the European stuff starts again. So they could be good teams to raid for stars. But all their players would be pricey.

True, so steer clear. And if you're looking for another excuse not to sign Chelsea players, there seems to be a risk of their players being injured by foreign objects thrown from the stands, if the cup tie at Oldham is anything to go by.

Hot dog!



HOW TO ENTER YOUR FANTASY LEAGUE TEAM

Select a team of 11 Premiership players from those listed right. The total value of your team must not exceed £50m and you cannot choose more than one player from the same Premiership club. Your team must be in a 4-4-2 formation with: one goalkeeper; two full-backs; two centre-backs; four midfielders; and two forwards.

TO ENTER BY POST Name your team on the entry form, left, in no more than 16 characters. Enter the correct three-digit player codes from the list, right, followed by the players' names. Enter the first three characters of each player's team under the heading CLUB, ie, LEE for Leeds. Also enter the value of each player shown on the list right. Add up the values of the 11 players in your team and make sure the total does not exceed £50m. Send your entry to the address shown, with a cheque/PO for £2.50 (£10 sterling outside UK or RoI) or your credit-card details. You will get confirmation of your team and your personal identity number (PIN) on receipt of your entry form. Readers under 18 should seek parental permission before entering. They must state their date of birth and indicate if they wish to enter our Youth League.

LUCKY DIP If you would like us to select a team at random for you, please tick the Lucky Dip box on the entry form. Postal entries only.

TO ENTER BY PHONE Call **0640 67 88 99** (+44 870 901 4209 outside the UK) using a touch-tone (DTMF) phone and when prompted tap in your 11 three-digit player codes. You will be asked to give the name of your team (no more than 16 characters). You will then be given a 10-digit PIN, make sure you write this down and keep it safe to be able to check your team's progress and make transfers. Calls last about seven minutes. 0640 calls are 60p per minute. Calls from outside the UK are charged at national rates. Calls from payphones cost approximately double.

All information provided by Fantasy League Ltd © Fantasy League Ltd

Promoter: News Promotions Ltd, PO Box 495, Virginia Street, London E1 9XY

THE TIMES MAIN FANTASY LEAGUE ENTRY FORM

Submit your entry as soon as possible to maximise your point-scoring opportunities

FANTASY TEAM NAME (up to 16 characters) ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

LUCKY DIP If you wish to have your team selected by us at random, tick box ☐

CODE		CLUB (first 3 letters)	VALUE
☐☐☐	GOALKEEPER NAME	☐☐☐	£ m
☐☐☐	FULL-BACK NAME	☐☐☐	£ m
☐☐☐	FULL-BACK NAME	☐☐☐	£ m
☐☐☐	CENTRE-BACK NAME	☐☐☐	£ m
☐☐☐	CENTRE-BACK NAME	☐☐☐	£ m
☐☐☐	MIDFIELDER NAME	☐☐☐	£ m
☐☐☐	MIDFIELDER NAME	☐☐☐	£ m
☐☐☐	MIDFIELDER NAME	☐☐☐	£ m
☐☐☐	MIDFIELDER NAME	☐☐☐	£ m
☐☐☐	FORWARD NAME	☐☐☐	£ m
☐☐☐	FORWARD NAME	☐☐☐	£ m

MAXIMUM OF ONE PLAYER PER PREMIERSHIP TEAM

TOTAL VALUE (MAX £50m) £

I also wish to enter the Youth League (please tick) ☐

I was under 18 on August 15, 1998. Date of birth ☐☐ ☐☐ ☐☐

First Name ______ Surname ______

Address ______

Postcode ______ Daytime tel ______

Cheque/PO no (payable to: Times Newspapers Ltd) ______

Credit card number: ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ Expiry date: ☐☐/☐☐

MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Name on card ______

Supply address of registered cardholder on separate sheet if different from above Signature ______

Send with £2.50 entry fee (£10 sterling for entrants outside the UK or RoI) to: The Times Fantasy League, Abacus House, Dudley St, Luton, Beds LU1 1ZZ

1. On which days do you usually buy The Times? ☐ Monday ☐ Tuesday ☐ Wednesday ☐ Thursday ☐ Friday ☐ Saturday ☐ Don't usually buy The Times

2. Which other national daily newspaper(s) do you buy at least once a week?

3. Which Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy almost always (3-4 copies per month)?

4. Which Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy quite often (1-2 copies per month)?

If you do not wish to receive other offers from Times Newspapers Limited, please tick box. ☐

FANTASY LEAGUE SERVICES

Use these numbers for all the information you need:

CHECKLINE

To check your team's standing

0640 625 102

(ex-UK +44 870 901 4292)

TRANSFER LINE

To alter your team

0640 625 103

(ex-UK +44 870 901 4293)

0640 calls cost 60p per minute (ex UK numbers charged at national rates)

FAXBACK

A comprehensive update sheet

0991 123 720

(ex-UK +44 870 901 4280)

SUPER LEAGUE FAXBACK

A brand new service

0991 123 721

(ex-UK +44 870 901 4279)

Faxbacks cost £1 per minute (ex UK numbers charged at national rates)

HELPLINE

for any queries

01582 702720

CHOOSE YOUR PLAYERS FROM HERE

Columns show: code, name, club, weekly points, total points, valuation(m).

GOALKEEPERS

Code	Name	Club	Weekly	Total	Value
102	D Seaman	ARS	0	19	3.7
145	A Manninger	ARS	3	6	3.4
139	M Bosnich	AST	0	12	3.2
140	M Oakes	AST	0	-1	2.9
144	A Rachel	AST	0	-1	2.6
108	J Filan	BLA	0	-5	2.8
126	A Fettis	BLA	0	6	2.5
127	T Flowers	BLA	0	-3	3.1
104	S Ilic	CHA	0	-9	2.3
105	M Salmon	CHA	0	0	2.2
106	A Petterson	CHA	0	-1	2.2
137	D Kharine	CHE	0	0	2.9
138	E De Goey	CHE	3	20	3.2
107	S Ogrizovic	COV	-1	-1	2.4
117	M Hedman	COV	0	-5	2.6
103	R Hoult	DER	0	3	2.3
153	M Poom	DER	0	7	2.5
112	P Gerrard	EVE	0	0	2.4
114	S Simonsen	EVE	0	0	2.7
118	T Myhre	EVE	-3	17	2.6
113	N Martyn	LEE	-1	10	3.1
115	M Beeney	LEE	0	0	2.8
125	P Robinson	LEE	0	4	2.7
123	K Keller	LEI	0	9	2.9
124	P Arphexad	LEI	0	0	2.6
122	B Friedel	LIV	0	-1	3.3
131	D James	LIV	-1	5	3.3
116	P Schmeichel	MAN	3	6	4.0
121	R Van Der Gouw	MAN	0	3	3.5
109	M Schwarzer	MID	-1	8	2.7
110	B Roberts	MID	0	0	2.4
111	M Beresford	MID	0	-3	2.5
141	S Given	NEW	-1	8	3.0
142	L Perez	NEW	0	0	2.7
143	S Harper	NEW	0	3	2.5
119	D Beasant	NOT	0	-14	2.7
120	M Crossley	NOT	0	0	2.6
136	K Pressman	SHE	0	7	2.5
149	M Clarke	SHE	0	0	2.2
150	P Srnicek	SHE	-1	0	2.3
147	N Moss	SOU	0	-2	2.2
148	P Jones	SOU	0	-4	2.4
128	I Walker	TOT	0	-2	2.8
154	H Segers	TOT	0	0	2.4
155	E Baardsen	TOT	0	3	2.6
129	C Forrest	WES	0	0	2.5
130	S Hislop	WES	3	6	2.7
133	L Miklosko	WES	0	0	2.4
132	N Sullivan	WIM	-1	-7	2.5
135	P Heald	WIM	0	0	2.3

FULL BACKS

Code	Name	Club	Weekly	Total	Value
203	R Garde	ARS	0	5	3.5
204	L Dixon	ARS	3	23	4.1
205	N Winterburn	ARS	0	17	4.2
260	D Grondin	ARS	0	0	3.4
261	N Vivas	ARS	1	6	3.7
201	G Charles	AST	0	16	3.4
209	A Wright	AST	2	12	3.7
211	G Croft	BLA	0	0	3.2
248	C Davidson	BLA	0	5	3.1
262	J Kenna	BLA	0	-2	3.5
221	C Powell	CHA	0	-4	2.7
240	D Mills	CHA	0	2	2.6
241	M Bowen	CHA	0	0	2.7
242	S Brown	CHA	0	-5	2.5
243	A Barness	CHA	0	-1	2.5
210	A Ferrer	CHE	3	17	3.7
212	G Le Saux	CHE	3	9	4.0
215	C Babayaro	CHE	3	29	3.5
216	F Sinclair	CHE	0	8	3.3
217	M Hall	COV	0	0	2.7
219	R Nilsson	COV	-1	1	2.9
231	D Burrows	COV	0	-7	2.9
247	I Brightwell	COV	0	0	2.8
267	M Edworthy	COV	-1	-1	2.9
220	H Kozluk	DER	-1	0	2.6
223	S Schnoor	DER	0	15	2.8
287	S Elliott	DER	0	2	2.6
295	T Dorigo	DER	0	7	2.8
249	J O'Kane	EVE	0	0	2.9
256	T Thomas	EVE	0	0	2.7
258	M Ball	EVE	-3	32	2.8
271	A Cleland	EVE	-3	17	2.9
272	T Phelan	EVE	0	0	2.8
286	M Ward	EVE	0	-1	3.0
214	D Granville	LEE	0	2	3.5
224	I Harte	LEE	-1	20	3.4
225	D Robertson	LEE	0	0	3.3
226	G Kelly	LEE	0	0	3.9
227	L Sharpe	LEE	0	0	3.6
235	R Ullathorne	LEI	0	13	3.0
237	R Savage	LEI	0	3	3.3
238	S Guppy	LEI	2	23	3.6
228	J McAteer	LIV	0	2	4.2
229	S Harkness	LIV	0	-2	3.8
230	R Jones	LIV	0	0	3.6
232	S Bjornebye	LIV	1	6	3.8
250	V Heggem	LIV	1	10	3.9
236	D Irwin	MAN	3	13	4.3
283	J Curtis	MAN	0	-1	3.5
284	P Neville	MAN	0	7	4.3
285	G Neville	MAN	3	9	4.5
294	W Brown	MAN	0	-1	3.6
252	C Fleming	MID	0	4	3.0
253	V Kinder	MID	0	3	3.0
254	C Harrison	MID	0	0	2.8
255	D Gordon	MID	1	19	3.2
259	[illegible]	MID	0	0	2.9
266	R Stockdale	MID	0	8	2.8
244	N Solano	NEW	2	15	3.3
246	A Griffin	NEW	0	-1	3.2
273	S Watson	NEW	0	6	3.4
274	W Barton	NEW	0	8	3.4
276	L Charvet	NEW	-3	9	3.3
280	C Serrant	NEW	0	-1	3.2
281	A Pistone	NEW	0	-3	3.5
290	D Lyttle	NOT	0	-2	2.9
291	A Rogers	NOT	0	-8	3.0
292	T Bonalair	NOT	0	-6	3.1
293	M Louis-Jean	NOT	0	-2	2.7
202	E Barrett	SHE	0	-1	2.8
268	A Hinchcliffe	SHE	-1	13	3.2
269	J Cobian	SHE	0	2	2.8
279	I Nolan	SHE	0	0	2.8
289	L Briscoe	SHE	0	6	2.8
239	J Beresford	SOU	0	0	2.8
263	J Dodd	SOU	0	-4	2.8
288	P Warner	SOU	0	-4	2.5
297	P Colleter	SOU	0	-1	2.6
251	C Wilson	TOT	0	0	3.0
264	S Carr	TOT	0	7	3.1
265	P Tramezzani	TOT	0	-2	3.2
270	J Edinburgh	TOT	0	5	2.9
296	M Taricco	TOT	0	0	3.3
206	S Potts	WES	0	2	3.0
208	T Breacker	WES	0	0	2.9
233	S Lazaridis	WES	3	3	3.2
234	A Impey	WES	0	5	3.1
275	D Jupp	WIM	0	-2	2.6
277	B Thatcher	WIM	-1	-1	2.9
278	A Kimble	WIM	-1	1	2.9
282	K Cunningham	WIM	-1	-5	3.0

CENTRE BACKS

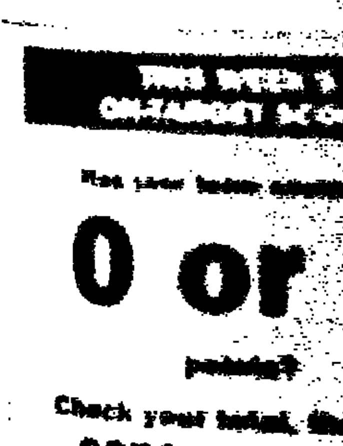
Code	Name	Club	Weekly	Total	Value
305	S Bould	ARS	3	12	3.8
307	T Adams	ARS	0	15	4.4
322	M Keown	ARS	3	25	4.1
337	G Grimandi	ARS	0	5	3.6
347	M Upson	ARS	0	0	3.4
301	U Ehiogu	AST	3	20	3.7
303	G Southgate	AST	3	13	3.6
304	R Scimeca	AST	0	5	3.3
329	C Barry	AST	0	6	3.1
353	S Peres	BLA	0	2	3.3
354	D Peacock	BLA	0	1	3.3
355	S Henchoz	BLA	0	-3	3.4
374	M Broomes	BLA	0	0	2.8
308	R Rufus	CHA	0	-5	2.7
309	E Youds	CHA	0	-3	2.8
358	B Lambourde	CHE	0	6	3.4
365	M Desailly	CHE	0	13	3.8
366	M Duberry	CHE	3	13	3.5
370	A Myers	CHE	0	0	3.3
381	F Leboeuf	CHE	3	26	4.2
357	G Breen	COV	-1	-3	3.0
379	JG Wallemme	COV	0	-6	3.0
384	P Williams	COV	0	-1	2.9
387	R Shaw	COV	-1	-1	2.8
388	L Daish	COV	0	0	2.8
311	J Laursen	DER	0	11	2.9
312	I Stimac	DER	0	3	3.0
313	R Delap	DER	0	15	2.7
314	HA Carbonari	DER	0	15	3.1
326	C Dailly	DER	0	-1	3.0
306	S Bilic	EVE	-3	2	3.1
323	D Unsworth	EVE	-3	16	3.1
324	D Watson	EVE	0	15	2.9
325	C Tiler	EVE	0	2	3.0
327	C Short	EVE	0	7	2.9
328	M Materazzi	EVE	0	11	3.0
348	R Dunne	EVE	-3	9	2.7
330	L Radebe	LEE	0	14	3.5
331	M Hiden	LEE	0	14	3.4
332	J Woodgate	LEE	-1	9	3.2
380	D Wetherall	LEE	-1	1	3.6
398	R Molenaar	LEE	0	20	3.4
334	G Taggart	LEI	0	5	3.2
335	P Kaamark	LEI	0	-3	3.3
336	S Walsh	LEI	3	10	3.3
338	M Elliott	LEI	0	19	3.9
389	S Prior	LEI	0	11	3.1
302	S Staunton	LIV	-1	6	4.1
320	P Babb	LIV	-1	1	3.7
375	D Matteo	LIV	0	0	3.6
399	BT Kvarme	LIV	0	0	3.5
321	H Berg	MAN	0	4	3.9
368	D May	MAN	0	0	3.9
382	J Stam	MAN	3	8	4.5
383	R Johnsen	MAN	3	15	4.1
339	C Pallister	MID	0	7	3.2
343	G Festa	MID	-1	6	3.1
344	S Vickers	MID	-1	5	3.0
340	S Pearce	NEW	-3	3	3.2
341	S Howey	NEW	-3	0	3.3
342	N Dabizas	NEW	-2	11	3.4
345	A Hughes	NEW	-3	-2	3.0
361	P Albert	NEW	0	4	3.5
349	C Edwards	NOT	0	-1	2.6
350	C Cooper	NOT	1	6	3.2
351	S Chettle	NOT	3	-8	3.0
352	JO Hjelde	NOT	0	-10	2.9
371	J Mattsson	NOT	0	-3	2.8
358	P Atherton	SHE	-1	12	2.9
359	G Sedloski	SHE	0	0	2.7
360	D Walker	SHE	-1	7	2.8
362	D Stefanovic	SHE	-1	-1	2.7
364	J Newsome	SHE	0	-1	2.8
317	K Monkou	SOU	0	-2	2.7
385	F Benali	SOU	0	-4	2.7
386	R Dryden	SOU	0	3	2.5
391	C Lundekvam	SOU	0	-2	2.6
394	S Marshall	SOU	0	-5	2.7
395	S Hiley	SOU	0	-8	2.5
397	G Monk	SOU	0	0	2.5
346	C Calderwood	TOT	0	-8	3.1
373	J Scales	TOT	0	6	3.0
377	L Young	TOT	0	-3	2.7
378	S Campbell	TOT	0	16	3.3
396	R Vega	TOT	0	9	3.4
315	J Dicks	WES	3	3	3.3
319	I Pearce	WES	3	10	3.1
363	R Hall	WES	0	0	2.9
367	J Margas	WES	0	-6	3.2
369	N Ruddock	WES	0	5	3.0
393	R Ferdinand	WES	3	14	3.2
372	C Perry	WIM	-1	-7	3.1
390	B McAllister	WIM	0	0	2.8
392	D Blackwell	WIM	0	-4	2.9

MIDFIELDERS

Code	Name	Club	Weekly	Total	Value
408	E Petit	ARS	0	6	4.4
406	M Overmars	ARS	3	14	5.6
416	R Parlour	ARS	2	6	4.0
420	P Vieira	ARS	0	3	4.1
424	F Ljungberg	ARS	0	3	5.5
425	S Hughes	ARS	0	7	3.5
407	M Draper	AST	0	0	3.7
409	S Grayson	AST	0	0	3.3
410	A Thompson	AST	0	4	4.5
411	F Ferraresi	AST	0	0	3.6
413	L Hendrie	AST	0	14	3.7
535	I Taylor	AST	0	9	3.8
415	B McKinlay	BLA	0	0	3.2
417	J Wilcox	BLA	0	4	4.0
419	D Duff	BLA	0	2	4.2
421	J Corbett	BLA	0	0	3.3
422	T Sherwood	BLA	0	11	4.1
423	D Johnson	BLA	0	7	3.1
426	[illegible]	BLA	0	0	3.3
427	D Marcolin	BLA	0	3	3.6
428	D Dunn	BLA	0	2	3.1
576	G Flitcroft	BLA	0	10	3.3
501	K Jones	CHA	0	2	3.1
502	M Kinsella	CHA	0	-6	3.5
504	M Holmes	CHA	0	0	3.2
505	S Newton	CHA	0	2	3.3
506	J Robinson	CHA	0	4	3.2
507	N Redfearn	CHA	0	6	4.1
508	P Mortimer	CHA	0	5	3.4
401	M Nicholls	CHE	0	0	3.3
404	P Hughes	CHE	0	0	3.1
429	J Morris	CHE	0	2	3.2
430	R Di Matteo	CHE	0	6	4.4
433	B Goldbaek	CHE	0	2	3.9
434	D Petrescu	CHE	0	9	4.3
435	E Newton	CHE	0	0	3.1
437	G Poyet	CHE	0	25	4.9
439	D Wise	CHE	0	2	3.8
465	G McAllister	COV	0	3	3.9
584	L Delorge	COV	0	0	3.5
588	B Quinn	COV	0	2	3.2
589	P Hall	COV	0	0	3.8
590	P Telfer	COV	0	0	3.5
591	N Whelan	COV	0	17	4.4
592	TE Soltvedt	COV	0	5	3.4
593	W Boland	COV	0	0	3.0
594	G Boateng	COV	0	2	3.3
595	P Clement	COV	0	2	3.5
596	G Strachan	COV	0	0	3.1
598	S Shilton	COV	0	0	3.0
599	S Froggatt	COV	0	11	3.7
440	D Powell	DER	2	4	3.2
442	S Eranio	DER	0	0	3.8
443	L Carsley	DER	0	5	3.1
444	F Baiano	DER	0	3	5.2
445	K Harper	DER	0	3	3.7
446	J Hunt	DER	3	3	3.4
479	L Bohinen	DER	0	2	3.6
403	G Farrelly	EVE	0	0	3.2
414	T Grant	EVE	0	0	3.1
418	D Williamson	EVE	0	0	3.2
447	J Oster	EVE	0	0	3.4
448	N Barmby	EVE	0	2	4.8
449	O Dacourt	EVE	0	0	3.6
450	J Collins	EVE	0	3	4.6
570	D Hutchison	EVE	2	6	4.0
459	H Kewell	LEE	2	28	4.4
466	L Bowyer	LEE	0	17	3.9
480	AI Haaland	LEE	0	0	3.6
481	B Ribeiro	LEE	3	3	3.8
482	G Halle	LEE	0	6	3.3
522	D Hopkin	LEE	3	12	3.7
532	S McPhail	LEE	0	4	3.1
452	N Lennon	LEI	0	4	3.5
453	S Campbell	LEI	0	0	3.1
454	G Parker	LEI	0	0	3.6
460	M Izzet	LEI	0	11	3.8
565	T Zagorakis	LEI	0	4	3.4
412	J Carragher	LIV	2	5	3.3
467	J Redknapp	LIV	-2	18	4.2
468	S McManaman	LIV	0	7	5.5
469	P Berger	LIV	0	16	4.4
470	D Thompson	LIV	0	0	3.2
472	S Gerrard	LIV	0	0	3.1
475	JM Ferri	LIV	0	0	3.9
487	D Murphy	LIV	0	0	3.7
490	P Ince	LIV	0	12	4.5
529	O Leonhardsen	LIV	0	0	4.3
483	J Blomqvist	MAN	0	9	5.0
484	N Butt	MAN	0	10	4.1
485	R Giggs	MAN	0	8	5.6
486	P Scholes	MAN	0	23	5.5
491	J Cruyff	MAN	0	8	3.8
492	D Beckham	MAN	0	21	5.9
509	R Keane	MAN	0	3	4.4
510	N Maddison	MID	0	0	3.1
511	A Townsend	MID	0	7	3.6
512	R Mustoe	MID	0	5	3.4
514	P Gascoigne	MID	0	15	4.5
515	P Merson	MID	0	11	4.7
516	A Moore	MID	0	0	3.5
517	P Stamp	MID	0	3	3.4
533	M Summerbell	MID	0	0	3.0
461	G Georgiadis	NEW	0	0	3.9
462	D Batty	NEW	0	0	3.7
463	S Glass	NEW	0	13	3.5
464	G Speed	NEW	0	3	4.3
473	J Barnes	NEW	0	0	3.6
488	P Dalglish	NEW	0	3	3.8
489	K Gillespie	NEW	0	2	4.3
493	G Brady	NEW	0	0	3.3
494	D Hamilton	NEW	0	0	3.3
495	T Ketsbaia	NEW	0	5	3.8
496	R Lee	NEW	0	2	4.2
497	D Hamann	NEW	0	0	3.9
518	N Quashie	NOT	0	2	3.8
519	G Hodges	NOT	0	0	3.3
520	C Bart-Williams	NOT	0	5	3.6
521	S Gemmill	NOT	0	2	3.5
524	G Thomas	NOT	0	0	3.5
525	A Johnson	NOT	0	2	3.7
526	S Stone	NOT	0	5	4.0
527	I Woan	NOT	0	0	3.8
528	C Armstrong	NOT	0	0	3.2
530	A Gray	NOT	0	0	3.4
537	N Alexandersson	SHE	0	13	3.5
538	P Rudi	SHE	0	8	3.6
539	G Whittingham	SHE	0	0	3.7
540	G Hyde	SHE	0	0	3.1
546	S Oakes	SHE	0	0	3.0
547	W Jonk	SHE	0	5	4.3
548	J Magilton	SHE	0	0	3.1
549	D Sonner	SHE	0	2	3.2
562	B Carbone	SHE	-3	18	4.7
597	E Thome	SHE	2	4	3.2
500	S Ripley	SOU	0	2	3.9
536	C Palmer	SOU	0	2	3.2
541	D Howells	SOU	0	3	3.2
542	M Le Tissier	SOU	0	19	6.0
543	W Bridge	SOU	0	0	3.0
544	K Gibbens	SOU	0	0	3.0
557	M Oakley	SOU	2	5	3.1
498	D Ginola	TOT	0	-14	4.8
503	R Fox	TOT	0	8	4.1
523	A Sinton	TOT	0	0	3.4
551	S Clemence	TOT	0	0	3.2
552	S Freund	TOT	0	0	3.9
553	A Nielsen	TOT	0	13	3.7
554	J Dominguez	TOT	0	0	3.5
555	D Anderton	TOT	4	21	4.6
564	N Berti	TOT	0	0	3.7
568	M Saib	TOT	0	0	3.6
438	J Moncur	WES	0	0	3.4
581	E Berkovic	WES	2	14	4.8
576	T Sinclair	WES	0	12	5.1
577	S Lomas	WES	0	5	3.3
578	F Lampard	WES	0	11	3.7
579	M Keller	WES	0	8	3.9
471	M Kennedy	WIM	-2	2	3.8
559	R Earle	WIM	3	14	4.1
560	A Roberts	WIM	0	3	3.3
563	N Ardley	WIM	0	0	3.4
580	M Hughes	WIM	0	11	3.5
585	G Ainsworth	WIM	0	0	3.8
586	C Hughes	WIM	0	0	3.3
587	P Fear	WIM	0	0	3.0

FORWARDS

Code	Name	Club	Weekly	Total	Value
601	L Boa Morte	ARS	0	0	5.4
602	N Anelka	ARS	0	29	8.0
606	D Bergkamp	ARS	0	23	9.1
623	C Wreh	ARS	0	0	5.8
645	D Yorke	AST	0	35	8.3
646	J Joachim	AST	0	18	6.2
651	D Vassell	AST	0	0	5.4
652	S Collymore	AST	0	7	8.0
647	C Sutton	BLA	0	11	8.4
648	B Blake	BLA	0	9	6.7
691	M Dahlin	BLA	0	4	6.4
692	A Ward	BLA	0	0	6.9
693	K Gallacher	BLA	3	9	7.5
698	K Davies	BLA	0	7	7.4
604	C Mendonca	CHA	0	11	6.5
605	M Bright	CHA	0	0	5.6
607	S Jones	CHA	0	5	5.0
608	A Hunt	CHA	0	14	5.5
636	PL Casiraghi	CHE	0	5	7.6
637	TA Flo	CHE	0	25	7.2
639	G Vialli	CHE	0	2	6.6
642	M Forssell	CHE	0	0	5.9
679	G Zola	CHE	0	33	7.4
680	D Huckerby	COV	0	11	7.2
683	D Dublin	COV	0	43	7.9
685	D Jackson	COV	0	0	6.3
686	J Aloisi	COV	0	3	6.4
612	D Sturridge	DER	3	20	6.6
625	D Burton	DER	0	6	5.3
694	P Wanchope	DER	2	19	6.8
628	D Cadamarteri	EVE	0	14	5.3
673	J Spencer	EVE	0	0	6.0
674	M Madar	EVE	0	0	6.2
675	I Bakayoko	EVE	3	6	6.7
702	D Ferguson	EVE	0	18	7.5
661	C Wijnhard	LEE	0	10	6.8
662	JF Hasselbaink	LEE	2	41	8.1
671	A Smith	LEE	0	10	5.1
622	E Heskey	LEI	0	19	6.8
626	T Cottee	LEI	0	14	5.4
657	I Marshall	LEI	0	0	5.7
669	G Fenton	LEI	0	0	5.2
618	KH Riedle	LIV	6	17	7.7
619	S Dundee	LIV	0	0	7.0
620	R Fowler	LIV	0	24	9.4
690	M Owen	LIV	6	26	10.5
640	OG Solskjaer	MAN	0	15	8.1
641	A Cole	MAN	0	24	8.7
649	T Sheringham	MAN	0	0	7.5
609	B Deane	MID	0	17	8.5
610	M Branca	MID	0	0	7.0
611	H Ricard	MID	0	29	6.6
613	M Beck	MID	3	17	6.2
615	A Armstrong	MID	0	0	6.0
667	A Andersson	NEW	3	3	6.7
670	A Shearer	NEW	2	20	10.1
627	M Harewood	NOT	0	5	5.1
629	N Shipperley	NOT	0	2	6.5
630	P Van Hooijdonk	NOT	0	11	7.8
634	JC Darcheville	NOT	0	3	6.1
635	D Freedman	NOT	2	18	6.3
659	R Humphreys	SHE	0	0	5.3
660	A Quinn	SHE	0	0	5.0
663	F Sanetti	SHE	0	0	5.9
664	A Booth	SHE	0	11	6.5
666	P Di Canio	SHE	0	6	7.1
638	M Hughes	SOU	0	2	6.5
665	D Hirst	SOU	0	0	6.1
703	E Ostenstad	SOU	0	14	6.9
704	J Beattie	SOU	0	7	5.2
706	S Basham	SOU	0	3	5.0
707	H Kachloul	SOU	3	6	5.1
650	C Armstrong	TOT	9	20	7.1
658	L Ferdinand	TOT	5	11	8.1
687	S Iversen	TOT	0	8	6.4
688	R Allen	TOT	0	0	5.2
603	I Wright	WES	5	24	7.8
614	J Hartson	WES	6	20	8.2
643	S Abou	WES	0	0	5.8
644	P Kitson	WES	0	9	6.3
672	C Leaburn	WIM	2	6	5.5
681	J Euell	WIM	0	23	6.4
700	M Gayle	WIM	0	35	5.8
701	E Ekoku	WIM	0	5	6.0
705	C Cort	WIM	3	3	5.3



Carbone a fine catch for Tiddlers

The £1,000 prize for December is heading to North Yorkshire, thanks in no small part to 16 points from the talented Italian

December was a month of big games, outstanding individual performances and controversial refereeing decisions. Like every other month in the FA Carling Premiership, in other words. But there was the extra spice of the holiday fixtures, and the two titanic clashes between Chelsea and Manchester United.

So, what will we remember December for, and who were the Fantasy League players who made their marks on the month?

Aston Villa managed to say ahead of the chasing pack despite defeat at Chelsea; they made up for it by beating Arsenal 3-2 in a thrilling come-from-behind performance and sharing the points with Manchester United. At the other end of the table, Charlton began to slide into danger, and Southampton suggested that a rally might be on until Chelsea took three points at The Dell.

Referees were predictably to the fore thanks to the controversial dismissals of Michael Oakes, the Villa goalkeeper, in the defeat at Blackburn, and Patrick Vieira of Arsenal in their 1-0 win at The Valley.

Arguably the player of the month was Benito Carbone of Sheffield Wednesday, who enjoyed a purple patch in the middle of the month with goals against Nottingham Forest and Charlton Athletic, and his absence on Boxing Day was keenly felt when Leicester triumphed at Hillsborough. Carbone contributed 16 points to Tom's Tiddlers, the team chosen by the winner of the monthly prize for December, Brian Longbone of Pickering, North Yorkshire.

Pressure of work meant that Mr Longbone, a surveyor, was unable to pay as much attention as he might have liked to the progress of his side: thus news of his prize of £1,000 plus £100 worth of sports equipment was something of a surprise. "It has come as a shock," he said. "I thought I'd picked a good team, but not that good."

Mr Longbone took a methodical approach to team selection, working out how much he could afford to spend on each position. "You have a financial constraint," he said. "It might not have been the team I'd have picked if I had had free rein." Such strict financial planning was the reason behind the selection of Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, Mr Longbone's top points scorer, with 17. "£15 million for Alan Shearer would be a lot of money to tie up in one position. Hasselbaink was good value."

Mr Longbone has no particular footballing allegiance. "I just like to see good football, and I try to identify what a good footballer should be."



Tom's Tiddlers

E De Goey (CHE)	11
D Irwin (MAN)	4
W Barton (NEW)	5
M Elliott (LEI)	11
R Ferdinand (WES)	3
B Carbone (SHE)	16
D Anderton (TOT)	10
P Ince (LIV)	4
M Hughes (WIM)	7
J Joachim (AST)	8
J F Hasselbaink(LEE)	17

Total points: 96

In general, he avoided "controversial figures; the team is based on good quality professional players". Some might wonder about the inclusion of Warren Barton, who has played at left back for Newcastle this season, despite the admission of Ruud Gullit, his manager, that "he hasn't got a left foot", but the selection of Michael Hughes and Julian Joachim, both of whom have garnered rave reviews for their performances this season, shows that Mr Longbone's policy of not breaking the bank for big stars can bring success. Are you watching, Mr Vialli?

The winner of the weekly prize of £500 plus £100-worth of sports equipment, Ridwan Patel, of the University of Surrey, had Chris Armstrong of Tottenham, our player of the week and scorer of a hat-trick against Everton, to thank for nine of the 26 points scored by his team, The Supersonics. Three of his four defenders (Dennis Irwin, Steve Walsh and Rio Ferdinand) managed clean sheets, while Robbie Earle and Dean Sturridge came up with valuable goals.

FANTASY PLAYER OF THE WEEK

BEN RADFORD / ALLSPORT



The new Ian Wright? Chris Armstrong also left Crystal Palace for North London, and now finds himself working under George Graham, as Wright did during his best days at Arsenal. His hat-trick against Everton ensured that the Spurs revival continued; the chat-show is surely only a matter of time...

FANTASY LEAGUE TOP 100

1	Phil Clarke	Shabadi United	236
2	Tony Murnaghan	Tony's Terrors	228
3	Michael Langdon	Hermaphrodites	227
4	Sean Morgan	Oi Not Again Ref	225
5	Nigel Kalb	Kalbs Kings 8	224
6	Ossie Smith	Corazon Fis 5	222
7	Sean Eastwood	Coen Brothers	220
7	Phil Tusler	Pin-Ups 7	220
9	David Mead	In The City	217
10	Robert Anderson	Robert's Rovers	216
11	David Young	Dave 10	214
12	John Lofthouse	Solid At The Bac	212
12	Terry Bullen	El Tel's Revenge	212
12	Terry Bullen	Dion Dion Dion	212
12	Robert Little	Broken Arrow	212
16	Thomas Meakin	Tt's All Stars	211
16	L Samuels	Spartak Mossley	211
18	Stuart Rutter	Spitonthevilla	210
18	John Hives	Boogaloo Dudes	210
18	Michael Lynn	Stimmosnutter	210
18	Richard Yershon	Porno Flick	210
18	Richard Deane	On The Wagon	210
18	James Walsh	Tigers Argyle	210
18	Steve Ougeri	Lokomotiv No Go	210
18	John White	Fusegear	210
26	Brian Highdale	Dixie's Deans FC	209
26	Scott Brett	Scotts Stars	209
26	Alan Westrop	Tyneside Army 94	209
26	Robin Playdon	Robin's Raiders	209
30	Roy Weller	Blue & Black Bar	208
30	Murray Macmillan	Murray's Marvels	208
30	Mike Shipley	Minus Threat 10	208
33	James Inglis	Pride O The Rock	207
33	Philip Morton	Skith Vanili	207
33	Simon Barker	The Times Eleven	207
33	Martin White	Grampus Gunners	207
37	Ron Allport	Cyclones	206
37	Jillian Rose	Eernies Fleas	206
39	Reda Maher	Placidcasuals	205
39	Sam Naish	Son FC	205
39	Nathan Carroll	Nath's Champs	205
39	J Prissell	Grand Pan Pizza	205
39	Gary Levermore	Tora-Co. Team	205
39	Philip Haddon	Premier Cruising	205
39	Mike Hawke	Holytump Yager	205
46	Steve Walker	Team C	204
46	Andrew P Heelin	Shortstraw	204
46	Tony Gammage	Nalnot Two	204
46	Pauline Hoggarth	Trumptontuesday	204
46	Jim Byrne	Perennials	204
46	James McGregor	Do I Need Owenfc	204
52	Alan Gardiner	Pete's Dragons	203
52	Nicholas Langford	Grossincompetenc	203
52	Darren Brannigan	Monday Moaners	203
52	Keith Davies	Lees Eleven	203
52	Paul Caton	Euro Stars	203
57	Ross Broadhurst	829,360	202
57	Oliver Chapman	Wigston Rangers	202
57	Andrew Marsh	Eat My Goal	202
60	Jonathan Beswick	Bezzer's Boyz	201
60	Ross Broadhurst	Team 7152	201
60	Gordon Crutchley	Super Saddlers B	201
60	Jas Singh	Inter City 442	201
60	Peter Donnelly	Goals 'R Us	201
60	Ian Cooke	Throwinowen	201
60	Michael Scaife	Allidoiswash&go	201
67	Robert Mortimer	Whoo-Hoo	200
67	Phil Tusler	Pin-Ups	200
67	B Webber	Colour Me Blue	200
67	Iain Finlayson	We Hate Beckham	200
67	Robert Tidd	Bob's Blasters	200
67	Mike Chippley	Minor Threat	200
67	Alex Murphy	Novocuisine Town	200
74	John Mell	Melton United	199
74	Nathan Smalley	Nathan's Lads	199
74	James Riley	The Promix Stars	199
74	Nicholas Keighley	These Eat Beans	199
74	Mick Martin	Inconsequentials	199
74	Brian Ritson	Relegation Certs	199
74	Richard Mason	Riansoneric	199
74	Malcolm McFarlin	Malton	199
74	Phil Tusler	Peter 7	199
74	Tim Gardner	Heart Of Glass	199
74	Brian Campbell	Saturday Sunday	199
74	Ian Priest	Team Two Blokes	199
74	Ed Wicks	Wicked2	199
87	Zane Radcliffe	One Paul Byrne	198
87	D Osborne	George F C	198
87	Mick Sharpe	Sheep Free Zone	198
87	Trevor Denton	Chelstrev 1	198
87	Graham Jevon	Gage	198
87	Richard Low	Geocir United	198
87	Robert Palmer	Samson&delilah 2	198
87	Andy Luckhurst	Caroline B.	198
87	A Charma	X Men F C	198
87	Sean Jackson	Yeltzonians F C	198
87	Iain Gibson	Armchair Honved	198
87	James Kerr	Serious Squad	198
99	David Edmondson	Edmo Utd Mington	197
99	Keith Hall	Huahin Wanderers	197

Plus nine others on 197 points

What do you mean your team is hopeless? You can win £500

Enter a new team now for ON-Target, where this week your team need not score any points at all in order to win the weekly prize

Congratulations to Martyn Robinson, the third week's main winner of ON-Target, who finds himself £500 richer and possessor of an EA Sports Pack. Fourteen other managers have also won themselves New Year prizes.

Even if you do not have a Fantasy League team, you can enter this new game now — or enter a new one simply for ON-Target. All managers have the chance to win a share of £28,000 of new prizes. *The Times* has teamed up with EA Sports to offer you the chance to own the renowned *FIFA 99* game. Every week you have the chance to win:

- 1st Prize: £500 plus an EA Sports Pack
- 4 runners up: EA Sports Packs
- 10 additional runners up: Fifa 99 CD-Rom.

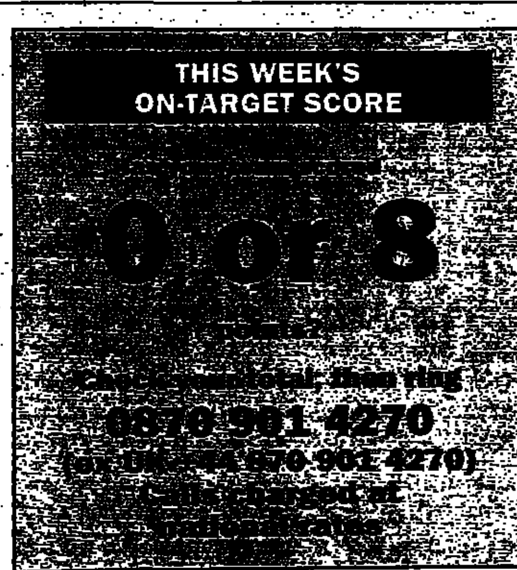
Each EA Sports Pack contains: FIFA '99 for the Playstation; FIFA '99 for the PC; EA Sports T-Shirt, key ring and mini football plus a record bag.

IF YOU already have a team in the main game, then you're ready to play ON-Target. Simply check your Fantasy League players' score each week and see if their total is the same as our ON-Target score shown here each Tuesday. If you have scored the exact target points, a quick call to our ON-Target winners' line (national rate call) will put you in the draw to win one of the 15 prizes.

The ON-Target score may be high or low. There could be more than one score (such as today). It could be a minus score. So it's worth checking your performance every week.

Just have your PIN number handy to call the winners line on:

0870 901 4270





If you don't have a team, or want to sign up another one, enter now by filling in the entry form. There are no limits to how many teams you enter. Not only could you win the ON-Target prizes, but you could win the main game weekly (£500) or monthly (£1,000) prizes.

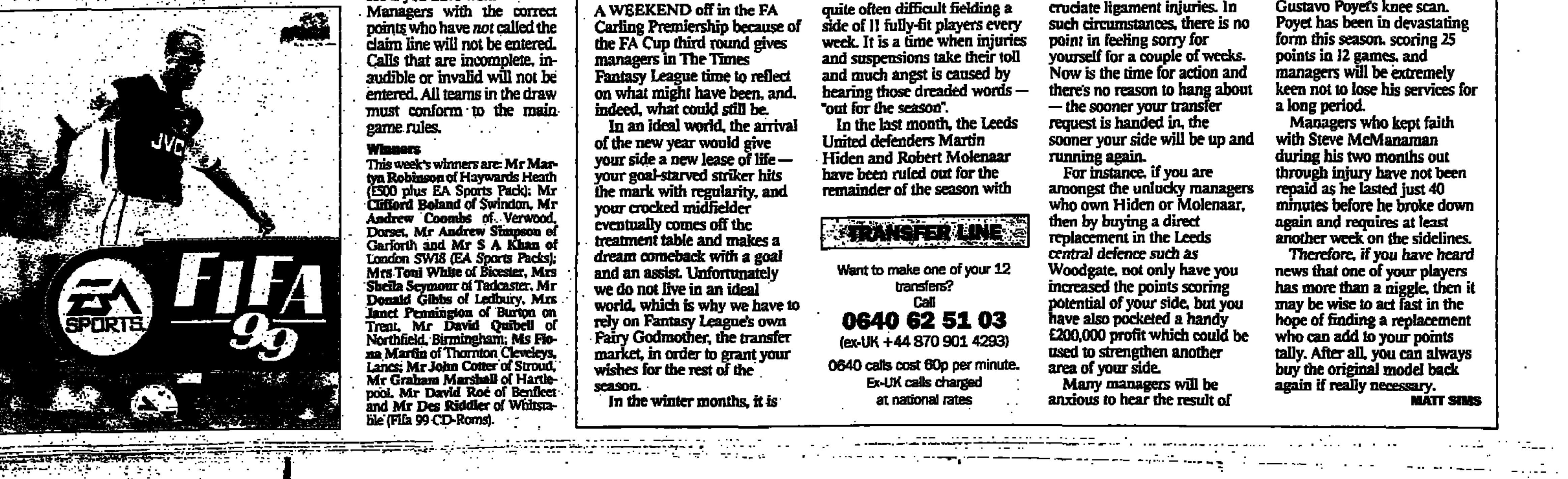
HOW TO ENTER: Look up your players' weekly point scores opposite and add them up, or call the checkline 0640 625 102. If your total score for this week matches the *ON-Target number(s)*, then call our claim line on **0870 901 4270** (calls, charged at national rate, should last about a minute). Claims must be made before midnight on Sunday night. The lines then close until the next game starts on Tuesday morning.

If you have scored the correct *number of points AND called* the claim line, you go into the draw. Just look in the paper on the following Tuesday to see if you have won.

Managers with the correct points who have *not* called the claim line will not be entered. Calls that are incomplete, inaudible or invalid will not be entered. All teams in the draw must conform to the main game rules.

Winners

This week's winners are: Mr **Martyn Robinson** of Haywards Heath (£500 plus EA Sports Pack); Mr **Clifford Boland** of Swindon, Mr **Andrew Coombs** of Verwood, Dorset, Mr **Andrew Simpson** of Garforth and Mr **S A Khan** of London SW18 (EA Sports Packs); Mrs **Toni White** of Bicester, Mrs **Sheila Seymour** of Tadcaster, Mr **Donald Gibbs** of Ledbury, Mrs **Janet Pennington** of Burton on Trent, Mr **David Quibell** of Northfield, Birmingham; Ms **Fiona Martin** of Thornton Cleveleys, Lancs; Mr **John Cotter** of Stroud, Mr **Graham Marshall** of Hartlepool, Mr **David Roe** of Benfleet and Mr **Des Riddler** of Whitstable (Fifa 99 CD-Roms).



FANTASY LEAGUE QUIZ





Last week's teaser asked you to find the connection between the four players' pictures using your body of footballing knowledge. The players were Carlton PALMer, Robbie MusTOE, Marcus HEDman and Ian HARTE. Spelling aside, the bodily parts become apparent.

This week try and find the connection between the quartet pictured. Answers on this page next week.

Two weeks ago our Christmas quiz asked you to discover the seasonal connection between four players. Answers and prize details are mentioned in the article above.





CHECK YOUR SCORES TELEPHONE 0640 62 51 02

YOUTH LEAGUE TOP 10

1	Robert Anderson	Robert's Rovers	216
2	Stuart Rutter	Spitonthevilla	210
3	Graham Jevon	Gage	198
3	Richard Low	Geocir United	198
5	Matthew O'Neil	The M Team	197
6	Richard Burton	No Fear	196
6	Nicholas Fenney	Fillesenfleurs	196
6	Dominic McDonnell	Birchall Bullets	196
9	Paul Williams	Where Was Gazza	195
10	David Swithenbank	Titus All Stars	194



Julian Joachim, who features in the Tom's Tiddlers team

Are you carrying crocks in your team?

A WEEKEND off in the FA Carling Premiership because of the FA Cup third round gives managers in The Times Fantasy League time to reflect on what might have been, and, indeed, what could still be.

In an ideal world, the arrival of the new year would give your side a new lease of life — your goal-starved striker hits the mark with regularity, and your crocked midfielder eventually comes off the treatment table and makes a dream comeback with a goal and an assist. Unfortunately we do not live in an ideal world, which is why we have to rely on Fantasy League's own Fairy Godmother, the transfer market, in order to grant your wishes for the rest of the season.

In the winter months, it is quite often difficult fielding a side of 11 fully-fit players every week. It is a time when injuries and suspensions take their toll and much angst is caused by hearing those dreaded words — "out for the season".

In the last month, the Leeds United defenders Martin Hiden and Robert Molenaar have been ruled out for the remainder of the season with cruciate ligament injuries. In such circumstances, there is no point in feeling sorry for yourself for a couple of weeks. Now is the time for action and there's no reason to hang about — the sooner your transfer request is handed in, the sooner your side will be up and running again.

For instance, if you are amongst the unlucky managers who own Hiden or Molenaar, then by buying a direct replacement in the Leeds *central defence such as* Woodgate, not only have you increased the points scoring potential of your side, but you have also pocketed a handy £200,000 profit which could be used to strengthen another area of your side.

Many managers will be anxious to hear the result of Gustavo Poyet's knee scan. Poyet has been in devastating form this season, scoring 25 points in 12 games, and managers will be extremely keen not to lose his services for a long period.

Managers who kept faith with Steve McManaman during his two months out through injury have not been repaid as he lasted just 40 minutes before he broke down again and requires at least another week on the sidelines.

Therefore, if you have heard news that one of your players has more than a niggle, then it may be wise to act fast in the hope of finding a replacement who can add to your points tally. After all, you can always buy the original model back again if really necessary.

MATT SIMS

TRANSFER LINE

Want to make one of your 12 transfers?
Call
0640 62 51 03
(ex-UK +44 870 901 4293)
0640 calls cost 60p per minute. Ex-UK calls charged at national rates

NEWS

Labour feud claims third victim

Senior members of the Cabinet last night urged their colleagues "to draw a line" under the most damaging episode of Mr Blair's Government, as the home loan affair claimed its third important casualty.

Charlie Whelan, the Chancellor's trusted press secretary was forced to resign after continuing accusations that he was the culprit who leaked details of the £373,000 loan to Peter Mandelson from Geoffrey Robinson..........Page 1

Euro enjoys smooth global launch

Europe's fledgeling currency was given a royal baptism by the financial markets in a day's trading that saw it rise against the dollar. European Union leaders greeted the launch in the City, the Continent, Wall Street and Asia as a sign of confidence that the euro is set to establish itself alongside the dollar.....Page 1

Flu calls jam 999

Panicking flu patients are precipitating a crisis in the overstretched health service by making 999 calls to demand ambulances to take them to hospital...Pages 1, 8

Birds ruffle Dome

Work on the Millennium Dome could be halted by the arrival of three pairs of black redstarts, one of the country's rarest nesting birds, at the construction site in Greenwich. It is against the law to disturb the "bombsite birds" once they start nesting, due to start next month..........Pages 1, 7

Diana coin issued

Sixteen months after her death, Diana Princess of Wales takes her place on a coin of the realm. The new £5 commemorative coin, unveiled by the Royal Mint today, is the first of four official memorials to the Princess..........Page 2

Yemeni bomb plot

The leader of the terrorist gang who kidnapped 16 Western tourists in Yemen had planned to bomb British targets in Aden five days earlier..........Page 3

Storms lash Scotland

Gale force winds gusting at 83mph battered Scotland and Ireland yesterday leaving one man dead and thousands without electricity. A 74-year-old man drowned when he was blown into the River Almond at Cramond, outside Edinburgh..........Page 5

Cold war camp plan

A secret plan to send thousands of Americans to Butlin's holiday camps before evacuating them from Europe in the event of war with the Soviet Union has been revealed in documents released under the 50-year rule..........Page 9

US cautious on euro

The Clinton Administration has greeted the launch of the euro with a cautious enthusiasm that belies the problems the project may present..........Page 10

Mosque massacre

Gunmen opened fire on Shia Muslims as they knelt in prayer at a mosque in eastern Punjab province yesterday, killing 16 people. Injured worshippers crawled to loudspeakers and pleaded for help..........Page 11

Angola in turmoil

Tens of thousands of Angolan civilians face starvation and death after the United Nations suspended flights to war torn parts of the country, sparking fears that the rebel Unita movement aimed to overrun government-held towns sheltering hundreds of thousands of refugees..........Page 12

Washington wives

The clearest indications yet that Hillary Clinton is planning to launch her own political career electrified Washington as preparations continued for her husband's Senate trial..........Page 13

Tourist marries her Aussie hero

A backpacker from Birmingham has married her own "Crocodile Dundee" after he rescued her from a crocodile-infested river in the Australian outback. Abigail Wilkinson's dramatic meeting with her husband-to-be, David Wielders, happened while she was on a canoeing trip at Fitzroy Crossing in Western Australia..........Page 10



British troops working with Nato in Macedonia yesterday held a remembrance service in Skopje for soldiers killed in World War One

Shares leap: European stock markets celebrated the smooth introduction of the euro with a euphoric surge, as investors bought into Europe's biggest companies...Page 23

ICI setback: Shares in ICI plunged yesterday after US regulators blocked the sale of ICI's Tioxide business to DuPont and NL Industries..........Page 23

Merger expected: Bell Atlantic and AirTouch Communications, the United States phone companies, have delayed an announcement of their $45 billion merger, but are still expected to agree to a deal this week..........Page 23

Markets: The FTSE 100 index fell 3.20 points to 5879.4. The pound fell 0.41 cents to $1.6599 and 0.56p against the euro to 71.09p..Page 26

Football: Keith Wiseman resigned as chairman of the Football Association after admitting that he had made mistakes in his contacts with the FA of Wales. The vice-chairman, Geoff Thompson, takes over as acting chairman..........Page 44

Cricket: Michael Slater scored 123 out of Australia's total of 184 in the final Test in Sydney..........Page 40

Sailing: Senior figures within the Royal Yachting Association are exasperated by the failure of the *Spirit of Britain* syndicate to secure primary sponsors for their America's Cup challenge..........Page 42

Racing: A new daily racing paper could be on the streets in time for the Cheltenham Festival after nine months of negotiations with potential backers..........Page 39

Cast out: Two powerful new London exhibitions devoted to the works of Rachel Whiteread and Kerry Stewart are haunted by sad shapes and glacial shadows of death..........Page 31

Fancy footwork: A cast change for the Royal Ballet's *La Fille mal gardée* at the Festival Hall puts Cuban recruit Carlos Acosta in the limelight..........Page 32

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New group: Yet another rival to existing small business organisations, has been set up..........Page 30

On the move: "We must approach change with confidence." Frances Gibb, the new Chairman of the Bar Council..........Page 35

Holiday worry: Planning an excursion to somewhere exotic? How well-informed are you..........Page 37

Whether the powerful bomb that blew away a bridge on the road Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was to take was actually an assassination attempt or a warning to him, must remain a matter of conjecture. But given the history of violence in the subcontinent, it would not be surprising if this was an attempt on his life, botched by incompetence or poor technology.

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Preview: Rick Stein returns to travel the world in search of seafood recipes: *Seafood Odyssey* (BBC2, 8.30pm) **Preview:** Joe Joseph recalls the ups and downs in a new docusoap..........Pages 42, 43

Storms and teacups

The departure of Charlie Whelan, the Chancellor's colourful but destructive press secretary, is not likely in itself to prove of enormous consequence to the direction and fortunes of the Government...Page 17

Pity Pakistan

Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister, has promised to crack down on terrorism. But he shows neither the will nor capacity to do so...Page 17

Pre-millennium bug

For most people the cure for flu is simple: take a hot, sweet drink, find a good book or programme and go to bed..........Page 17

LIBBY PURVES

The three Blaireens will not be back from the Seychelles today to begin the arduously long state school Easter term. At this point the Prig Tendency starts competing for attention..........Page 16

MICHAEL GOVE

The High Priest of the Third Way is himself at fault. For two things. His "project" is driven by calculation, not principle, and his Government in consequence operates as a court, not an enterprise..........Page 16

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Some of you worry about the longer-term prospects for the world's only superpower. For those who like to think about that, I will share a recurrent nightmare.....Page 16

Charles John Robert Manners, 10th Duke of Rutland; Sir William Stuttaford, CBE, former chairman of the Unit Trusts Association and president of the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations; **Sebastian Haffner**, German author..........Page 19

UK commissioners for Brussels; society's "moral wasteland"; Fifties public housing; birth of the euro; woodland burials; causes of gout; strain of the train; Balliol protest; Shakespeare tribute; Shakespeare honoured..........Page 17

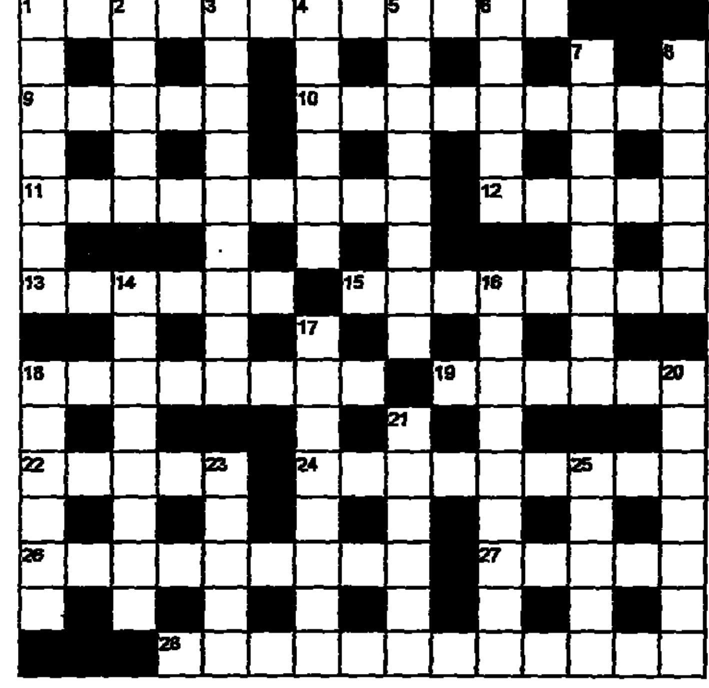
TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ INTERFACE
You might think your business is safe, but the millennium bug could still ruin it

■ HOMES
Should a buyer be able to find out what a seller originally paid for a house?

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,992



ACROSS
1 Movement in simple dance with variation in time (12).
9 Dog's makeshift monument (5).
10 Handle action that establishes proof of ownership (5-4).
11 Decline to put small pig with old sow (3,2,4).
12 Duck or gull losing head (5).
13 Contemplating return of stick to curb transgression (6).
15 Uncultured fellow taking certain ballads to heart? Quite likely (8).
18 Gain distinction from project (5,3).
19 Muck, for example, found in middle of street (6).
22 Warm and cosy place needed by King Lear (5).
24 In confusion, tries fire alarms (9).
26 Most deliveries are made so precipitately (9).
27 Reptile unlikely to multiply? (5).
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1 Propriety requiring no drink to be served after festive month (7).
2 One coming down from noble family for shoot (5).
3 Murderer's refuge in sleep (4,2,3).
4 Vessel from Cape, say (6).
5 Ring fighters getting to perform in a smart turnout (8).
6 Family member announcing holiday destination on Med (5).
7 A number becoming disorderly under pressure to find shady area (8).
8 Form an attachment nowadays with present (6).
14 Collect for service in Chinese city (8).
16 Sole punishment for a bandit so awful (9).
17 Plant denied chlorophyll at the outset is flatter (6,2).
18 Not much of a rebuff (6).
20 Earn a lot of leave on day of victory (7).
21 Skill needed to get round cold here – freezing cold, mostly (6).
23 Impish female diving into rising river (5).
25 One's leaving an Eastern state for another (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,991

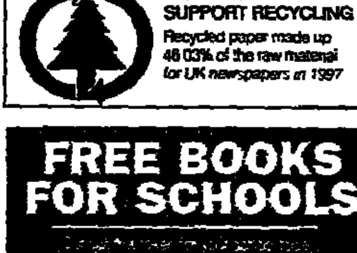
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BOBSYOURUNCLE
E O E N P A A S
RAMPANT BABYSIT
M B S I E L E O
UNAPT TRAVERSER
D S L T G E
ATTESTED FRIDAY
I A D B A I
RECIPE MARMOSET
E O S S R W
SNOWDRIFT HYENA
U A I L I I P D
MOSELLE LAPLAND
E I L N L P I L
STAYTHECOURSE
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Times Two Crossword, page 44

TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED, 1998. Published and printed and licensed for distribution in electronic and all other derivative forms by Times Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 495, Virginia Street, London E1 9XN, telephone 0171-782 5000 and also printed at Kitling Road, Prescot, Merseyside, L34 9HN, telephone 0151-546 2010. Tuesday, January 5, 1999. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.

Sun rises: 8.05 am
Sun sets: 4.06 pm
Moon sets: 10.05 am
Moon rises: 8.21 pm
Last quarter January 9

London 4.06 pm to 8.05 am
Bristol 4.16 pm to 8.15 am
Edinburgh 3.54 pm to 8.42 am
Manchester 4.05 pm to 8.24 am
Penzance 4.34 pm to 8.20 am





☐ **General:** England and Wales will again be very mild, but it will be cloudy with outbreaks of rain and drizzle. The rain will be heaviest across Wales and northern England and brighter skies will push northwards across southern England later on. After a chilly start, cloud and rain will spread into Northern Ireland and will also edge into southern Scotland, turning wintry over the Highlands at first. Further north, it will stay cold with a mix of sunny spells and showers and only light breezes.

☐ **Tonight:** cloudy and wet in northern England, Scotland and Northern Ireland with snow over the Scottish mountains. Central England and Wales will be cloudy but dry, while southern England will have some clear spells.

☐ **London, SE England, Central S England:** mild and cloudy with patchy drizzle. Brighter later. Moderate southerly wind. Max 14C (57F).

☐ **E Anglia, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, SW England, S Wales, N Wales:** morning cloud and rain clearing only slowly but mild. Moderate to fresh south to southwesterly wind. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **Channel Islands:** cloudy, then sunny spells. Wind fresh, southerly. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N England, NE England:** outbreaks of rain, some heavy. Drier towards evening. Moderate southwesterly wind. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow:** cold start. Rain and hill-snow spreading from the south in afternoon. A light east to southeasterly wind. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** cold with sunny spells and isolated showers, some wintry. Light west to northwest wind. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **N Ireland:** clouding over after a cold start with rain for the afternoon. Light variable wind. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** dull, with periods of rain, heavy at times. Wind variable or moderate, northeasterly. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Outlook for Wednesday and Thursday:** Wednesday will continue mild in the south, although early sunny spells will become confined to the southeast as rain spreads from the northwest. Scotland and Northern Ireland will see rain clearing to showers. Most places will have further rain on Thursday and it will be quite windy.



Changes to the chart from noon yesterday: low A will merge with low D and run northeast, with little change in pressure. Low B will move away to the east and deepen. High C will be slow moving.



24 hrs to 5 pm. b=bright, c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm, du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gales; h=hail, r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; s=sun, t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Aberdeen	2.9	0.22	7	45	sh	Isle of Wight	X	0.23	12	54	c
Anglesey	-	0.14	10	50	c	Jersey	-	0.28	12	54	r
Aspatria	-	0.20	8	46	c	Kinloss	0.1	0.26	7	45	sh
Aviemore	-	1.02	6	43	d	Leeds	1.2	0.19	11	52	c
Belfast	0.7	0.19	7	45	b	Lerwick	0.2	0.41	7	45	r
Birmingham	2.6	0.27	10	50	b	Leuchars	-	0.58	8	46	r
Bognor R	-	0.21	13	55	c	Littlehampton	-	0.35	12	54	sh
Bournemth	0.2	0.33	13	55	sh	London	0.8	0.17	14	57	b
Bristol	-	0.44	12	54	c	Lowestoft	0.8	0.19	13	55	b
Buxton	-	0.35	8	46	b	Manchester	0.7	0.22	11	52	b
Cardiff	-	0.46	12	54	c	Margate	-	0.04	14	57	r
Cleethorpes	-	0.15	11	52	b	Morecambe	-	0.14	9	48	du
Colwyn Bay	0.3	0.05	11	52	c	Newcastle	0.6	0.11	9	48	c
Cromer	1.3	0.19	12	54	c	Norwich	1.3	0.16	13	55	b
Eastbourne	-	0.42	13	55	c	Oxford	0.8	0.20	12	54	c
Edinburgh	0.2	0.37	8	46	r	Penzance	X	X	13	55	r
Eskdalemuir	-	0.69	7	45	c	Poole	-	0.29	13	55	c
Exmouth	-	0.23	13	55	c	Prestatyn	0.4	0.05	11	52	b
Fishguard	0.2	0.18	9	48	r	Ross on Wye	1.4	0.17	11	52	sh
Folkestone	0.1	0.17	12	54	c	Saunton Sands	-	0.14	11	52	c
Glasgow	-	0.81	9	48	sh	Scarborough	-	0.06	10	50	b
Guernsey	-	0.16	14	57	sh	Shrewsbury	0.5	0.16	10	50	sh
Hastings	-	0.33	11	52	r	Southport	X	0.18	10	50	c
Hayling I.	-	0.29	12	54	du	Stornoway	0.3	0.80	7	45	sh
Herne Bay	0.6	0.04	15	59	c	Swanage	-	0.30	12	54	d
Hove	-	0.18	11	52	r	Teignmouth	0.1	0.31	13	55	c
Hunstanton	1.1	0.19	11	52	b	Tenby	-	0.39	11	52	c
Isle of Man	-	0.88	9	48	p	Tiree	0.2	0.52	8	46	b

Ajaccio	13	55	f	Cologne	6	43	r	Madrid	5	41	c	Rome	14	57	s
Akrotiri	18	64	s	C'phagn	3	37	c	Majorca	16	61	s	Salzburg	4	39	f
Alex'dria	20	68	f	Corfu	11	52	r	Malaga	17	63	s	S Frisco	13	55	s
Algiers	15	59	c	Dublin	5	41	s	Malta	15	59	s	Santiago	28	82	s
Amst'dm	4	39	r	Dubrovnik	11	52	r	Melbourne	20	68	s	S Paulo	X	-	
Athens	13	55	r	Faro	16	61	f	Mexico C	X			Seoul	8	46	s
Bahrain	20	68	s	Florence	9	48	s	Miami	24	75	s	Singapore	28	82	c
Bangkok	31	88	s	Frankfurt	6	43	c	Milan	5	41	f	Stockholm	2	36	c
Barbados	28	82	f	Funchal	19	66	c	Montreal	-6	21	f	Strasb'rg	8	46	f
Barcelona	13	55	s	Geneva	6	43	r	Moscow	-5	23	sn	Sydney	29	84	s
Beirut	18	64	s	Gibraltar	18	64	s	Munich	7	45	s	Tangier	18	64	s
Belgrade	4	39	r	Helsinki	-2	28	c	Nairobi	27	81	f	Tel Aviv	21	70	s
Berlin	6	43	s	Hong K	17	63	s	Naples	10	50	r	Tenerife	22	72	f
Bermuda	21	70	c	Innsbruck	4	39	f	N Delhi	15	59	fg	Tokyo	9	48	s
Biarritz	14	57	s	Istanbul	10	50	f	N York	7	45	r	Toronto	-3	27	c
Bordeaux	13	55	r	Jeddah	34	93	s	Nice	15	59	s	Tunis	16	61	c
Brussels	7	45	c	Jo'burg	25	77	f	Oslo	-2	28	sn	Valencia	15	59	s
Budapest	2	36	c	L Palmas	22	72	s	Paris	12	54	c	Vanc'vr	0	32	f
B Aires	28	82	s	Le Touq't	10	50	f	Perth	27	81	s	Venice	10	50	c
Beijing	7	45	s	Lisbon	8	46	fg	Prague	1	34	c	Vienna	0	32	f
Cairo	18	64	s	Locarno	9	48	s	Reykjavik	4	39	f	Warsaw	3	37	s
Cape Tn	23	73	s	L Angeles	18	64	s	Rhodes	17	63	f	Wash'ton	9	48	s
Chicago	-9	16	s	Luxembg	4	39	r	Rio de J	27	81	s	Zurich	7	45	c
Ch'church	X			Luxor	26	79	s	Riyadh	19	66	s				

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	3:20	4.3	15:29	4.4	Liverpool	1:01	9.4	13:19	9.5
Avonmouth	9:15	13.4	21:41	13.0	London Bridge	3:45	7.3	16:09	7.5
Belfast	0:59	3.4	13:10	3.7	Lowestoft	11:47	2.4	23:45	2.6
Cardiff	9:01	12.4	21:27	12.1	Margate	1:51	4.8	14:20	4.8
Devonport	7:56	5.4	20:21	5.1	Milford Haven	8:16	7.0	20:39	6.7
Dover	0:45	6.7	13:04	6.5	Newquay	7:08	7.0	19:32	6.7
Dublin	1:25	4.1	13:42	4.3	Oban	7:33	4.1	20:06	3.8
Falmouth	7:27	5.2	19:52	4.9	Penzance	6:37	5.7	18:58	5.3
Greenock	2:35	3.4	14:27	3.8	Portland	8:57	2.2	21:26	1.9
Harwich	1:34	4.0	13:57	4.1	Portsmouth	1:06	4.7	13:15	4.8
Holyhead	0:08	5.6	12:25	5.8	Shoreham	1:02	6.3	13:09	6.2
Hull (Albert D)	8:21	8.5	20:31	8.8	Southampton	0:44	4.6	12:58	4.5
Ilfracombe	8:00	9.3	20:25	8.9	Swansea	8:17	12.3	20:39	11.9
King's Lynn	8:22	6.5	20:28	6.6	Tees	5:44	10.0	17:56	10.1
Leith	4:35	5.6	16:55	5.6	Walton-On-Naze	1:30	4.2	13:54	4.3

All times GMT. Heights in metres.

Yesterday: highest day temp: Herne Bay, Kent 15C (59F); lowest day max: Lough Fea, County Tyrone 6C (43F); highest rainfall: Lusa, Isle Of Skye 1.18ins; highest sunshine: Aberdeen 2.9hrs.

هكذا من الإهمال

THE TIMES 2

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft — TUESDAY JANUARY 5 1999

European shares surge as single currency gains value

BY SAEED SHAH, PAUL DURMAN AND RICHARD MILES

EUROPEAN stock markets celebrated the smooth introduction of the euro with a euphoric surge, as investors rushed to buy into Europe's biggest companies. London, however, was left out of euroland's party.

The benchmark Dow Jones Euro STOXX 50 index of 50 eurozone blue chips jumped 6 per cent but, in contrast, London's FTSE 100 index of leading British shares closed 3.2 points lower at 5,879.4.

David Bowers, a European equity strategist at Merrill Lynch, said: "The ins have had a better day than the outs."

The euro appreciated modestly as many had expected, hitting early highs above $1.19, compared with the $1.16875 level at which its precursor, the European currency unit, ended life on Thursday. However, by afternoon trading, the euro had eased back to $1.1790.

The pound ended a volatile day of trading at just above 71 pence to the euro. During the day, it moved in a wide range of more than 3 per cent against the single currency, hitting a high of 70 pence and a low of 72.45 pence to the euro. Its trade-weighted index fell to 99.0 from 99.7.

Nick Holtby, an equity trader at Warburg Dillon Read, said that the first day of dealing in the euro had been "spectacularly uneventful" and that volume was thin for most of the day.

The most dramatic action was on Europe's bourses. In Frankfurt, the blue chip Xetra DAX index jumped by 5.7 per cent with telecoms stocks leading the charge. Deutsche Telekom was outstanding, jumping by nearly 16 per cent.

In Paris the CAC-40 blue chip index closed 5.2 per cent higher with France Télécom up more than 8 per cent.

In Madrid the Ibex blue chip index closed 6.21 per cent higher but, outperforming all these, was the Italian stock market with a gain in the blue chip Mib30 index of 6.44 per cent. This was the second-biggest one-day rally since Milan introduced its electronic trading system at the start of 1994.

Mr Bowers, of Merrill Lynch, expressed surprise at the magnitude of the rallies, saying that some European markets had looked quite expensive. He attributed the surge of buying interest partly to pent-up demand. "A lot of people were told to refrain from dealing in the run-up to the conversion weekend. This was the first chance for the liquidity to get into the market," he said.

He added that the introduction of the euro highlighted the extent to which European assets were "under-owned" relative to the importance of European economies.

Eric Chaney, head of European economic research at Morgan Stanley, said that it was unusual for European equities, currencies and bonds to move up in tandem.

He said: "I would have thought today [that] Germans bought French equities, Italians bought French bonds, and so on. The euro makes cross-border investment easier and there is no currency risk."

Mr Chaney said that, although the strength of yesterday's rally could not be sustained, the outlook for European equities in the first half of this year was positive.

Some voices were more sceptical. George Magnus, chief economist at Warburg Dillon Read, said that the strength of the euro was not intrinsic but reflected the weakness of the dollar. Commenting on European stock markets, Richard Jeffrey, chief economist at the Charterhouse Group, said that the strength of the French and German markets did not look warranted by the economic background. "It's the mood of the day," he said.

"Only history will tell us whether the introduction of the euro deserves to be treated as it has been by the French and German markets. I'm deeply suspicious," he added.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average was quoted about 70 points higher at mid-session.

Commentary, page 25
Economic View, page 27

THE POUND

BY RICHARD MILES
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

NATWEST yesterday mounted a brave, but apparently doomed, defence of the pound by refusing to put the euro first when quoting conversion rates for the single currency in the wholesale markets.

While virtually every other big City institution accepted the euro as the fixed element in the conversion formula — no doubt reflecting its likely displacement of sterling as one of the world's reserve currencies — NatWest clung determinedly to pounds and pence.

Alas, NatWest is having to rethink its patriotic stance in the light of the market practice of quoting 71p to the euro, rather than 1.4 euros to the pound. Anneke Van Woudenberg, who has led the conversion programme for NatWest's capital markets division, said the bank may change its policy of putting the pound first for the sake of clarity in the market. "You have to remember this is a unique situation," she said.

"There is no one body which states how the conversion should be expressed. We have adopted a flexible approach." Ms Van Woudenberg added that it would be determined during the course of the first trading day whether it was more appropriate to put the euro first in the wholesale markets.

Which currency should go first had been the subject of some heated debate in the industry during the run-up to conversion. While it had proved impossible to come to a unanimous view, the consensus was for the euro first, according to Margaret Soden, senior manager of the EMU programme at HSBC.

One consequence of relegating sterling to second place is that the pound will disappear from City screens as conversion rates are expressed in pence. "Traders are already getting used to thinking of 70p or 71p to the euro," said Ms Soden.

HOUR BY HOUR, THE EURO MAKES ITS MARK

sterling per euro (LH scale)
dollars per euro (RH scale)

LH scale (p): 71.30, 71.25, 71.20, 71.15, 71.10, 71.05, 71.00, 70.95
RH scale: 1.182, 1.181, 1.180, 1.179, 1.178, 1.177, 1.176

Source: Reuters

ICI falls 6% after US puts block on Tioxide disposal

BY CARL MORTISHED
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

SHARES in Britain's largest quoted chemical company plunged yesterday after US regulators blocked the sale of ICI's Tioxide business to DuPont and NL Industries.

Concern that the group's £5 billion disposal programme would be further delayed caused ICI shares to shed 6 per cent, reducing the chemical company's market value by £210 million. Standard & Poor's, the debt-rating agency, yesterday revised ICI's outlook from stable to negative, warning that the group's ability to divest speedily and reduce its £4.4 billion in debt was uncertain.

ICI added to the sense of urgency by announcing a big restructuring of its paints, industrial specialties and halochemicals businesses, leading to the loss of 1,000 jobs.

The UK will suffer about 500 redundancies, of which between 300 and 400 will affect ICI's Runcorn plant where the Halochemicals business is based. A further 120 jobs will be lost from industrial specialties in Warrington.

ICI has been forced to scrap a planned sale of Tioxide, a pigments business, because of concerns by Washington's Federal Trade Commission that the buyers would secure excessive market power. Tioxide makes titanium dioxide, a whitener used in paint. DuPont would have secured some 33 per cent of the world market and an important share in imports to the US.

Charles Miller Smith, ICI's chief executive, said that the company would look at all the options for Tioxide, including a trade sale and break-up of the company but he indicated that flotation was now a preferred option. He said: "An IPO is a good front-runner." He also indicated that financial buyers, such as leveraged buy-out funds, might be attracted by Tioxide's cashflow.

City analysts were less enthused by the flotation plans. Robyn Coombs, of Merrill Lynch, said that a public offer would be difficult as titanium dioxide had recently risen strongly in price, offering less recovery potential for investors.

The company insisted that the earnings impact of not achieving the planned sales would be neutral and predicted that pre-tax profits would exceed £315 million in 1998 and confirmed that it would pay an unchanged full-year dividend of 32p per share. The £120 million pre-tax restructuring charge will wipe out much of the £120 million post-tax gain from the sale of Teesside Utilities and Services but will pay back £70 million in a full year.

ICI is cutting 10 per cent of the workforce in its US paints business where margins have been damaged in a recent price war.

Tempus, page 26

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5879.4	(-3.2)
Yield	2.78%	
FTSE All Share	2673.18	(-0.74)
Nikkei	13415.89	(-426.26)
New York:		
Dow Jones	9326.94(+145.21)*	
S&P Composite	1245.89(+16.85)*	

US RATE

Federal Funds	5¼%*	(4¾%)
Long bond	101[illegible]*	(101[illegible])
Yield	5.16%*	(5.12%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	6[illegible]%	(6[illegible]%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	119.64	(119.08)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6594*	(1.6607)
London:		
$	1.6601	(1.6636)
€	1.4068	(n/a)
SFr	2.2712	(2.2852)
Yen	186.98	(187.67)
£ Index	99.0	(99.7)

DOLLAR

London:		
€	1.1815*	(n/a)
SFr	1.3663*	(1.3715)
Yen	112.12*	(113.30)
$ index	103.5	(104.6)

Tokyo close Yen 113.87

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Mar)	$11.10	(n/a)

GOLD

London close	$286.95	($287.25)

* denotes midday trading prices

Mobile phones well connected

SHARES in telecoms companies soared yesterday after Britain's four mobile phone operators revealed that between them they had added 2.5 million new customers in the three months running up to the end of the year.

Vodafone, the market leader, added 933,000 customers in the quarter, more than the whole industry together added in the third quarter of 1998. The Christmas push of so-called "pre-pay" packages were mainly responsible for the massive growth.

Report, page 23
Stock market, page 26

MPC rate-setters get mixed picture

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

MANUFACTURING activity fell sharply again in December, but evidence that the recent fall in exports has begun to ease provided an ambiguous backdrop to this week's meeting of the Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee.

The Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply said that total manufacturing fell for the ninth consecutive month and that the decline was the third-largest in a month since the survey was begun seven years ago. However, the institute's export orders index improved from 38.9 in November to 42.2 in December, signalling a slowing in the pace of decline that purchasing managers attributed to the depreciation of sterling. The pace of redundancies in manufacturing also slowed last month.

The institute's prices index fell to a new low of 35.1, from 35.2 in November, underlining current disinflation at home and abroad.

The City is divided on whether the MPC will once again cut interest rates at its meeting, which starts tomorrow and ends on Thursday. A poll of 19 economists by Reuters conducted after the last monetary policy meeting in December found that seven expected rates to be cut again, with 11 predicting that the next move would be in February or March and one "don't know".

Supporting the view that the MPC will stay its hand on rates were figures yesterday showing that the consumer's appetite to borrow remains robust. Borrowing on credit cards rose by a record £559 million in November, the biggest monthly rise since the Bank of England started publishing this series in 1993.

Overall consumer credit rose by £1.3 billion, just exceeding the £1.2 billion rise reported in October. The figures seemed to confirm data showing stronger than expected shop sales in the run-up to Christmas.

Coinciding with yesterday's British purchasing managers' survey were similar reports from America, Germany and Italy, which were uniformly weak in the face of fragile world demand. In America the National Association of Purchasing Management said that manufacturing slowed in December for the seventh month in a row. The association's monthly index of business activity fell to its lowest level since May 1991, contrary to Wall Street forecasts of a small rise.

In Germany the Purchasing Managers' Index showed the largest drop in output and the lowest level of output since the survey began in April 1996. It was the third monthly decline in a row. In Italy purchasing managers reported a drop in export orders for the sixth consecutive month.

US phone company merger delayed

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

BELL ATLANTIC and AirTouch Communications, the US phone companies, yesterday delayed an announcement of their $45 billion (£27 billion) merger, but are still expected to agree to a deal this week.

The two local service providers were forced to admit being in talks after their shares surged on speculation. The boards of both companies met on Sunday but failed to approve the merger documents.

Accounting issues are said to have prevented a launch of the merger before markets opened for the year's first week of trading. Executives of Bell Atlantic are worried about goodwill charges that they fear could hold back profits for years to come.

The prospect of starting 1999 with another mega-merger has prolonged new year celebrations on Wall Street. After last year's bonanza that saw all ten of the biggest mergers in the space of 12 months, analysts had predicted a calming of activity.

Bell Atlantic is no stranger to Wall Street's merger departments. In one of the first telecoms mega-mergers, Bell Atlantic absorbed Nynex and last year agreed to take over GTE, another phone and Internet company. The GTE deal has yet to be completed, making the AirTouch deal all the more ambitious.

The driving force behind Bell Atlantic's buying spree is a move to offer integrated services to US customers, both geographically and across product segments. One analyst said: "The highest margins are to be had when you carry traffic from beginning to end on your own network."

The main benefit to Bell Atlantic of the merger with AirTouch will be a combination of mobile phone services. Bell Atlantic is a dominant mobile phone operator on the East Coast while AirTouch is strongest on the West Coast. Both compete with AT&T, which recently acquired TCI, a cable company. Regulators forced TCI to divest its mobile phone interests. Similar restrictions may be placed on Bell-AirTouch.

Analysts said Bell Atlantic and AirTouch were particularly well matched because they used the same mobile phone technology.

The combination of their networks should be far easier than some of the other recent telecoms mergers. AT&T's $32 billion acquisition of TCI, in particular, is said to have resulted in extra infrastructure costs of up to $5 billion. The accelerating wave of consolidation in the American telecoms sector stands in marked contrast to the European market, which has seen the creation of countless private operators competing with former state monopolists such as BT and Deutsche Telecom.

While Europe is increasing competition to bring down prices, the US is seeing a growing limitation of consumer choice in a bid to create economies of scale.

PowerGen buys plants for £95m

PowerGen boosted its stocks of environmentally friendly generation yesterday with the £94.9 million purchase of Yorkshire Electricity's combined heat and power (CHP) plants.

The power plants, which supply large businesses and public buildings, produce more power for less fuel and operate on a smaller scale than other forms of electricity generation. They are the only type, so far, to escape the Government's moratorium on new gas-fired power stations.

The four CHP plants from Yorkshire will be added to PowerGen's existing stock of five such plants and will, the generator said, mark its commitment to expanding in environmentally friendly power.

GKN in US deal

GKN, the engineer, is following up last month's purchase of the Interlake Corporation with a further US deal that will see it take full control of one of Interlake's investments. It has negotiated the right to pay $65 million (£39 million) for the 20 per cent of Hoeganaes, a powdered metal supplier, that Interlake does not own. It will be able to take posession of the stake, currently owned by Höganäs, a separate Swedish company, a year after the Interlake deal is completed.

C&W acquisition

Cable & Wireless, the telecoms company, has acquired ECRC Network Services, a German Internet service provider (ISP), from ICL for £27.5 million. The purchase is the first since the resignation of Dick Brown as chief executive of C&W. ECRC, which specialises in the German corporate market, is one of the country's top five ISPs.

House price fall

House prices in the UK fell by 0.1 per cent in December, according to the monthly Halifax house price index. This compares with a fall of 0.7 per cent in November. The average price paid for a house in the UK in December was £73,124. Halifax expects annual house price increases to slow to 4 per cent over 1999 from 6 per cent in 1998.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.78	2.60
Austria Sch	20.37	18.71
Belgium Fr	59.95	54.99
Canada $	2.648	2.460
Cyprus Cyp £	0.8519	0.7904
Denmark Kr	11.07	10.18
Egypt	5.85	5.24
Finland Mkk	8.92	8.17
France Fr	9.70	8.92
Germany Dm	2.916	2.674
Greece Dr	486	447
Hong Kong $	13.68	12.48
Iceland	127	107
Indonesia	17040	12040
Ireland Pt	1.1620	1.0730
Israel Shk	7.20	6.54
Italy Lira	2899	2662
Japan Yen	202.11	184.58
Malta	0.656	0.599
Netherlds Gld	3.292	2.997
New Zealand $	3.27	3.03
Norway Kr	13.01	12.07
Portugal Esc	294.64	272.61
S Africa Rd	10.40	9.45
Spain Pta	245.60	226.81
Sweden Kr	14.11	13.01
Switzerland Fr	2.426	2.208
Turkey Lira	541961	505938
USA $	1.786	1.623

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Mobile phone shares lifted by leap in sales

By Chris Ayres

AN ESTIMATED 2.5 million mobile phones were sold in the run-up to Christmas, three and half times more than in the same period in 1997, figures out yesterday revealed.

The numbers amazed industry analysts and set off a share-buying spree that put billions of pounds on the value of the mobile phone companies.

Analysts are now predicting that a further five million consumers will buy mobile phones in 1999, and that 39 per cent of Britain's adult population will be connected by 2000.

The vast majority of new connections in last quarter of 1998 were for pre-pay services, which let people buy mobile phone handsets for about £70, and pay for calls with vouchers instead of receiving bills.

The industry also benefited from pre-pay phones being sold by chains such as Tesco and Boots as well as by its usual retail outlets.

Vodafone, the industry leader, yesterday saw its market value rise by £2.25 billion to £32 billion after reporting nearly a million connections in the fourth quarter. Orange saw its value rise by £1.1 billion to £9.5 billion. Shares in Cable & Wireless, part-owner of One2 One, also rose, as did shares in British Telecom and Securicor, which jointly own Cellnet.

Alan Lyons, an analyst with ABN Amro, said: "The growth is phenomenal. For the fourth quarter of 1998 Vodafone added more subscribers than the entire mobile phone industry added in the third quarter of the same year. The market is heading for saturation at a much faster rate than anyone thought possible. The only question mark is over the quality of growth being achieved."

☐ Cable & Wireless Communication yesterday said that it has won a five-year, £100 million contract to supply network capacity to Vodafone

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NEW CUSTOMERS FOR THE MOBILE PHONE COMPANIES

Net number (ie, taking into account customers leaving the networks) of British customers acquired by mobile phone companies

	Quarter 4 1998	Quarter 4 1997	%	[illegible] customers
Vodafone	933,000	241,000	287	Circa 4.9m
Cellnet	658,000	149,000	341	Circa 4m
Orange	512,000	130,000	294	Circa 2.2m
One2One	439,000	206,000	113	Circa 1.9m
Total new UK mobile phone cutomers				
	2.5 million	726,000	244	



Chris Gent, head of Vodafone, whose shares leapt yesterday

Euro hurts Japan and Hong Kong

By Saeed Shah

THE debut of the euro drove down Asia's two biggest stock markets yesterday, with shares dropping 3 per cent in Tokyo and more than 2 per cent in Hong Kong.

While the euro appreciated against the dollar on its first day of trading, the yen also made ground against the greenback, which, according to brokers, hastened a slide in Tokyo stocks on fears that Japanese exports would become more expensive.

Tokyo's benchmark Nikkei 225 average shed 426.28 points to close at 13,415.89, its lowest closing level since October 16.

Nick Parsons, chief currency strategist at Paribas in London, said: "The yen was caught between euro strength and dollar weakness. Despite the new currency, it was a normal volatile day's trading for the yen."

The dollar dropped to near a three-month low in Asia at 112.79 yen, from Y113.65 in New York last Thursday, before climbing back to around Y113.60 by late afternoon.

Among leading stocks Sony lost Y180 to close at Y8050 (£44), Toyota fell Y115 to Y2955 and Honda retreated Y130 to Y3580.

The losses in Tokyo dragged Hong Kong down with it. The Hang Seng index fell 2.38 per cent to finish at 9,809.17.

More listed firms go private

By Robert Lea

THE NUMBER of stock market companies taken into private hands leapt last year, and many more public-to-private transactions are in prospect this year.

Institutional antipathy to small companies and a boom in venture capital funds are seen as reasons for the trend.

According to figures in a Close Brothers Corporate Finance report, 25 quoted companies, with a total value of £2.7 billion, were taken private in 1998 against only eight, together worth £550 million, in 1997. In 1996, only two listed companies went private.

Last year's boom in such transactions — including the £935 million acquisition of Thorn by Nomura and the £850 million acquisition of Willis Corroon by Kohlberg Kravis Roberts — is no flash in the pan, Close says. It believes that such transactions will at least double to 50 this year.

John Llewellyn Lloyd, chief executive of Close's corporate finance team, expects the trend to continue strongly, not least because of a growing bias in the City against small companies. Eighteen of last year's 25 deals were for less than £50 million.

"Smaller companies have unquestionably fallen victim to institutional 'sizeism', whereby, irrespective of their quality, their share ratings are being depressed by the mere fact that they are small," Mr Llewellyn Lloyd said. "We believe being taken private will prove increasingly popular to certain types of company as a buoyant private equity market is now providing smaller companies with the capital required to build their business far more readily and efficiently than the stock market is currently doing."

Close says: "Fund managers are increasingly eager to find exits from smaller company investments and in the future we are likely to see a more active role being played by fund managers in catalysing such exits."

Firms stay quiet on millennium bug

MANY companies are evading responsibility for any millennium bug disasters by keeping quiet about its potential effects on their business, claims a report by the Consumers' Association. A researcher wrote to 74 companies, posing as a worried customer wanting information about contingency plans and customers' legal rights should things go wrong. Only 52 responded, and not one gave information about consumers' rights in the event of a problem, or details on how to complain.

The report found that many companies used "gobbledegook" such as "leveraged internal applications experts" and concluded that much of the information in replies was "so vague as to be unusable". This may be the intention as companies hope to avoid creating a liability in law. Adam Taylor, a partner at Withers Solicitors, said: "A casual answer to a customer questionnaire could make an unwelcome reappearance in court resulting in legal liability where none existed before."

Finnish minister quits

FINLAND'S Communications Minister resigned yesterday over a scandal surrounding last year's £850 million flotation of a 20 per cent stake in Sonera, the country's flagship telecoms operator. Matti Aura stood down just one hour after the Sonera board dismissed Pekka Vennamo, the chief executive, for his dealings in Sonera shares. Mr Vennamo received more than 46,000 Sonera shares on flotation. By contrast, members of the public were allowed to buy just 820 shares each. The shares have nearly doubled in value.

PwC income up 20%

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS, the world's largest accounting and consulting group, reported a 20 per cent jump in fee income last year. Reporting consolidated figures out of last summer's merger of Coopers & Lybrand and Price Waterhouse, the firm said income in the year to June 30 came in at $15.3 billion (£9.2 billion). The growth was fired by a 41 per cent increase in management consulting fees. This compared with an 18 per cent rise in tax income and 10 per cent growth in audit and business advisory services.

Polypipe expands

POLYPIPE, a plastic products maker, has bought Pagette Sanitar Produktions-Vertriebs, a maker of toilet seats and plastic cisterns based in Bottrop, western Germany, for £9 million in cash. Polypipe will pay £6 million initially and a further £3 million dependent on the achievement of agreed operating profits for 1999 and 2000. For the year ending December 31, 1998, Pagette's operating profit was £510,000 on sales of £11.3 million. It has net assets of £500,000. Pagette will become part of Polypipe's bathroom and kitchen products division but will trade under the Pagette name.

Northern Rock disposal

NORTHERN ROCK, the bank, has sold its financial services business to the management for a nominal £1. The bank will continue to receive commission from the independent advisory firm, now called Versteeg Lister & Co, for the next ten years in respect of previously written business. The disposal is in line with Northern Rock's strategy of concentrating on mortgages and savings and will have a minimal impact on income, the bank said yesterday. Northern Rock Financial Services is a three-man operation led by Roger Versteeg.

Polish buy for Kalon

KALON GROUP, the paint and building materials company, is to acquire up to 60 per cent of Polifarb Cieszyn Wroclaw, the Polish paints company, for a maximum consideration of £49.2 million. Polifarb, which was created through the merger of two rival paint manufacturers two years ago, is listed on the Warsaw stock exchange and earned pre-tax profits of £10.6 million on turnover of £96.5 million in the year to December 31, 1997. Kalon shares were unchanged at 87½p yesterday.

Berisford acquisition

BERISFORD, the manufacturer of commercial food service equipment and owner of Magnet kitchen stores, has acquired Convotherm Elektrogerate, a German ovenmaker, for up to £13 million. The price is dependent on the results of the company's results for 1998. Convotherm produces "combi-ovens", which combine convection and steam heating, and in 1997 reported an operating profit of DM3.6 million (£1.3 million) on a turnover of DM41 million. Berisford said that it expects the acquisition to be immediately earnings enhancing.

B&B ready to counter conversion campaign

CHRISTOPHER RODRIGUES, chief executive of Bradford & Bingley, will today detail how he intends to combat the pro-conversion campaign of Stephen Major, one of its customers (Anne Ashworth writes).

It is possible that the building society, which wishes to retain its mutual status, may temporarily close its doors to new savers to thwart carpetbaggers hoping for a windfall.

Mr Major, who describes himself as a "quantity surveyor currently working as a plumber" is seeking election to the Bradford & Bingley board. He has put forward a resolution under which Bradford & Bingley would become a bank, distributing payouts to its 2.5 million members. After checks to ensure the validity of the resolution, it seems likely to be put to the vote at the annual meeting in April. If the resolution is passed, then a formal conversion vote would follow. Observers say that Bradford & Bingley is sufficiently large to become a bank without first merging with another society.

There has been an increase in account openings at the society, as the minimum necessary to qualify for any conversion payout is a relatively low £500.

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Standard Life to create 300 jobs

STANDARD LIFE BANK said yesterday that it is to create 300 jobs after its phonelines were swamped by callers interested in its first mortgage offering (Richard Miles writes).

The banking arm of Europe's largest mutual life insurer said it had received more than 2,500 calls and £30 million worth of applications after opening for mortgage business at 8am.

The bank has attracted £2 billion in deposits from 170,000 savers since it was established 18 months ago.

Whistle-blowing on rogue directors rises

THE Department of Trade and Industry is getting a 100 calls a month from whistleblowers informing on rogue directors and undischarged bankrupts who are continuing to illegally act as company executives.

The DTI's Insolvency Service said yesterday that the number of allegations concerning banned directors defying court orders had risen by 40 per cent to 1,200 last year. Complaints have led to more than 100 cases where Insolvency Service investigators are looking at having to reprosecute miscreant directors.

The news came as the number of director disqualifications in the third quarter of 1998 rose by a third to 347. About 2,500 directors have been disqualified by the courts in the past two years.

Kim Howells, the Consumer Affairs Minister, said the number of calls to the Defiant Directors Hotline showed that the Government's hardline on "rogues and cheats was supported not only by the public but also by the business community who wanted to see the privilege of limited liability removed from those who used company failure as a vehicle for personal gain".

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Lopsided birth of a notion

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

A Milan journalist, seeking views of typical Italians on the advent of the euro yesterday, seemed able to find only people who had been unemployed for decades. One Calabrian, who had officially been out out of work for 18 years, realised what was expected. "For people like me with no money to start with," he said, "it makes no difference whether you are talking about lire or euros."

In one sense, he was right. Camparis and cappuccinos still had to be paid for in lire. But prices of euro-denominated shares on the Milan exchange rose by 6.4 per cent in a day. Madrid was close behind, adjusting to a market in which a Portuguese or Finnish share is barely distinguishable from a French or German one, either for investors from the big euroland countries or for those from America.

The latter look responsible for a striking upsurge in telecom stocks all over the Continent. Shares in most national telecom companies jumped by at least 7 per cent and Deutsche Telekom by twice that as the euro underlined the scope for restructuring.

In a second sense, however, the stage Calabrian could hardly have been more wrong. On opening day, the euro ended up roughly 0.5 per cent. If matters had been left to Far East traders, the welcome mark-up would have been at least double.

Italians and Spaniards, in particular, have paid a high price in jobs to qualify for the euro. Now they want their reward.

Lower interest rates will help euroland's Latin regions mightily, even if cheaper money is an an embarrassment in booming Dublin. But a strong euro, if it is driven up largely by capital flows, would mean fewer jobs in the powerhouse of the Rhine Valley and therefore everywhere else in euroland too.

Only then should we see what the European Central Bank is made of. Will Wim Duisenberg and his band of brothers ignore the exchange rate? If so, they will fall out. Or will they see it as a leading indicator to the virgin unexplored territory of a single euroland economy?

The City will be sympathetic. Even in well-trodden economic territory, an *Inflation Report* written in November can look daft two months later.

Thus far, oddly enough, London has made a bigger contribution to creating the euro, as opposed to dreaming it up, than any other capital in Europe. If the transition in financial markets proves as smooth as it seemed on day one, it will be a triumph for the Bank of England, for UK clearing and investment bankers, market administrators, clearing house officers, lawyers, traders and computer experts.

That will not stop Frankfurt and others redoubling their efforts to piggyback on London's expertise and steal its business. British job-finders should be as grateful that sterling has shunned the euro as the City must and investors must be alarmed at being left out.

Checking out a change at B&B

Christopher Rodrigues has never come across as a convincing defender of mutuality. After all, the boss of Bradford & Bingley is hardly a life-long servant of the building society movement, having arrived at the B&B from Thos Cook a couple of years ago after the Germans sent him scuttling from the travel agency. However, once he settled in to the cheerful life of being a borrower and lender in the land of friendly societies he decided this was rather nice. So every time someone goes "Shouldn't the B&B really be a bank?", Rodrigues comes out with the line that the society wants to remain mutual because that is the best way it can serve its members.

The trouble is that advocates of mutuality never put the issue to the test. The argument is that you do not need to verify the status quo so the only time that mutuals ever ask their members whether they want to convert to a plc is when someone starts a campaign to convert.

At Nationwide the conversion champion (or, if you prefer, the king of carpetbaggers) was freelance butler Michael Hardern. At the B&B it's Stephen Major, a quantity surveyor-cum-plumber whose home at Lisburn in Northern Ireland is about as far from Bingley as one can imagine without leaving the UK.

At the moment Rodrigues is resisting Major but in the next few weeks he may have to face the reality of a members' vote on the issues. This will place him in a tricky situation. Should he gamble, like Brian Davis at Nationwide, that he can win a vote and remain mutual? After all, Davis succeeded only by a wafer-thin margin and his position would have been untenable had he lost.

Rodrigues is an ambitious man and realises that a demutalised B&B might be well placed to take advantage of the turmoil in the mortgage market. Unlike some of the other societies being targeted for conversion — such as the Portman or the Yorkshire — B&B is large enough to survive and thrive as a public company. It would also be a nice fit with, say, the Woolwich, and Rodrigues could easily end at the top of the merged business.

With some clever footwork, Rodrigues could turn the conversion battle at B&B into a classic "win-win" situation. He can say he thinks B&B would better serve its customers as a mutual, but he is there to serve their will not impose his. So if they vote to pay off their credit card bills through a conversion windfall, then he will bow to their will, however ill thought out.

In debt, sterling can outlast the lot

Economists keep telling governments to balance their books. For insurance companies and pension funds needing to match future commitments, however, that would be a disaster. They need governments to raise money by issuing safe, "gilt-edged" bonds by virtue of which the insurers can themselves offer guarantees of future value to their policyholders.

Many companies offered guaranteed annuity rates in the 1980s, at rates much higher than those available today. What a pity that they could not or did not choose matching investments to ensure that they could deliver.

Most of those who have bitten the bullet are now trying to quantify the loss and fund it. But they have found that there is no outstanding government debt on any scale dated long enough in the future to cope with liabilities that may only become due 30 years or more ahead.

So the Treasury's Debt Management Office is being lobbied to issue 30-year stock, with warrants to renew the investment thereafter. Not unnaturally, the DMO is sceptical, reckoning that its job is to do the best for taxpayers, not insurers.

Thinking long might pay because the euro will provide such tough competition for investors' money. The UK could outflank its more short-termist euroland rivals and find new markets by issuing 30-bonds on the US model. The only sensible time to start is when long-term interest rates are historically low. Like now.

Mobile economy

FORGET the recession. The reason why retailers had such a bad Christmas is obvious when you walk down the street, take a train or drink in a pub. It assaults your ears with an incessant ring to the tune of *Ode To Joy* or *Whistling Dixie*. In the past three months, the mobile phone companies have signed up 2.5 million new subscribers. Most of these are on pre-paid deals and many were given phones as Christmas presents, so soaking up millions that might have been spent elsewhere on the high street.

Regal hotel talks may start consolidation

By Dominic Walsh

REGAL HOTEL GROUP is in talks to acquire County Hotels, a privately owned rival, in a joint venture deal that could kickstart the long-expected consolidation of the three-star hotel market.

The proposed deal, which is believed to value the 25-strong County chain at about £110 million, comes after the collapse in October of a move by Regal to take itself private with backing from Alchemy, the venture capitalist.

Regal, in common with quoted competitors such as Jarvis, Macdonald and Friendly, has been mooted as a candidate for consolidation after the collapse of share prices in the sector amid fears of a recession. The sector has also seen private groups such as County, Principal Hotels and Menzies Hotels failing to win support for stock market flotations.

The idea of consolidating the three-star market is one that corporate financiers have been investigating for several months. Paul Dukes, a director of Close Brothers Corporate Finance, said: "These groups have got nowhere to go individually. They haven't got critical mass or well-known brands, and many don't have a London presence. We think the way forward is to consolidate, weed out the non-core stuff and you've got a decent provincial hotel group."

Regal yesterday said that the proposed acquisition of County would be "through a joint venture company in which Regal and a private equity firm would be shareholders". Any deal would be made "without recourse to any equity fundraising".

The private equity firm in question is Duke Street Capital, which led County's £91 million buyout from Queens Moat Houses in March 1997. Duke Street speaks for about 90 per cent of County's equity.

Regal is expected to put some cash in the joint venture vehicle, but a source close to the company emphasised that there would be no effect on gearing. Regal is no stranger to joint ventures, its latest being with Holmes Place, the fitness club operator.

Insiders say that a deal with County could be tied up by the end of the month. Negotiations are likely be to made easier by the fact that Charles Holmes, County's chief executive, is a former Regal executive. County, in which £12 million was invested last year, would eventually be absorbed into Regal's new Corus brand.

News of the talks comes after the takeover last month of Lyric Hotels — another former flotation candidate — by Friendly. Both Friendly and Principal are also believed to have looked at County.

Edmund Truell, chief executive of Duke Street, admitted that Regal was not the only operator he had spoken to. "We believe that County has got to grow to prosper," he said. "Equally, we do think that some of the mid-sized hotel groups should get together to leverage economies of scale. It wouldn't be surprising if, by the end of the year, you see a completely reshaped mid-market hotel sector."

BP Amoco soars on first day

BP AMOCO shares soared on their first day of trading, increasing the value of the merged oil company to £90 billion (Carl Mortished writes). The 21½p gain in the shares to 924½p quickly confirmed the benefits of being the top stock in the FTSE 100 index.

The rush to buy BP Amoco was seens as testimony to investor confidence in the cost-cutting strategy of Sir John Browne, chief executive, and has allowed the oil company to beat Glaxo Wellcome and BT to the top slot.

BP Amoco's gargantuan presence is curious, given the weakness of the oil price and the market's fascination with telecoms and drug companies. With BP Amoco and Shell accounting for almost a tenth of the index, the oil sector could end up driving the market.

Delancey builds 8% interest in Greycoat

By Carl Mortished

GREYCOAT was besieged by takeover speculation yesterday after a group linked to George Soros and British Land revealed that it had acquired almost 8 per cent of the Central London property developer.

Delancey Estates said that it had bought more than 7 million shares in Greycoat while Delancey's parent, the Soros-backed fund Quantum Realty, had picked up 660,000 in Greycoat stock. Strand Associates, another concert party, owns 150,000 shares in the property company. The total holding amounts to 8.45 million shares or 7.79 per cent of Greycoat.

The stake-building follows news that Wates City of London Properties had acquired 2 per cent of Greycoat and will again raise questions over the company's future.

Delancey, which is run by James Ritblat, son of John Ritblat, chairman of British Land, is believed to have bought the £11.8 million Greycoat stake from UK Active Value, a fund that two years ago attempted to unseat Greycoat's management by supporting a hostile bid approach from Moorfields, another property group.

Quantum Realty recently acquired 66 per cent of Delancey, paying more than £100 million for the interest.

It is Soros's second venture into UK property with the Ritblat family. Five years ago, Quantum invested in a £1 billion joint venture with British Land, only to pull out quickly in 1994.

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Tay hits back at investor

THE shareholder trying to effect a boardroom coup at Tay Homes, the northern housebuilder, was yesterday accused of trying to take over the company on the cheap (Robert Lea writes).

Richard Tice, joint chief executive of Sunley Group, the private housebuilder, and a 10 per cent shareholder in Tay, has requisitioned an extraordinary meeting of the company at which he and his own management team would replace the current board.

Norman Stubbs, Tay's chairman, ruled out giving in to Tice. In a statement to shareholders, he said: "The board is concerned that Mr Tice and Sunley are attempting to gain control of the company without paying any premium or indeed making any formal offer for the company." Tempus, page 26

Harris's son quits job at Carpetright

By Sarah Cunningham

THE son of Lord Harris of Peckham has quit as an executive of Carpetright, the company chaired by his father.

Martin Harris, 29, who joined the company in 1991 and was promoted to the board as marketing director in 1996, was viewed as Lord Harris's heir apparent at Carpetright.

John Kitching, managing director, who will take on Mr Harris's board duties said he had left for personal reasons.

"It is difficult working under your father, particularly a very strong personality like Phil [Lord Harris]," Mr Kitching said. He emphasised that there had not been any arguments, adding: "They are very, very close."

Mr Harris who owns less than 1 per cent of the company's shares is to stay on the Carpetright board as a non-executive, though he is planning to find work elsewhere. "He wants to go off and do his own thing," a spokesman said.

Carpetright shares closed up 2½p at 226½p.





Father and son: Lord Harris of Peckham, left, and Martin Harris

Goldsmiths' sales lack festive cheer

By Sarah Cunningham

CHRISTMAS proved to be less than glittering for Goldsmiths, the jewellery retailer, which yesterday reported disappointing trade.

The company, which said before Christmas that it had received a preliminary takeover approach, made no comment on weekend reports that Jurek Piasecki, its chairman and chief executive, had teamed up with Alchemy Partners, the venture capitalists, to offer 185p a share for the group.

Analysts said they still expected Mr Piasecki to emerge as the bidder, but said a fair offer would have to be pitched at between 225p and 250p. The shares fell from 169p to 154p.

Mr Piasecki said that the only strong period of trading was the actual week of Christmas. The four weeks to January 2 saw like-for-like sales down 2.6 per cent on last year.

Goldsmiths, which has 154 branches, said sales for the four weeks, including new branches, were up 9.8 per cent. Sales for the 48 weeks to January 2 were 3.3 per cent up, like-for-like, and up 13.7 per cent in total.



Investors connect with surging telecoms sector

THE telecoms sector has rung in the new year just as it ended 1998 — on a high note.

Yesterday it was again connecting perfectly with City investors to produce six of the top ten best performing shares among blue chips.

Leading the way higher was **Orange**, up 96p, or almost 14 per cent, to 794½p, after adding 512,000 new customers during the final quarter of last year, and taking its total customer base to 2.16 million.

Vodafone had similar good news for shareholders with the price soaring 73p to £10.49 on turnover of 12.72 million shares. It attracted 933,000 new customers during the past quarter — way above even the most optimistic forecast.

Also showing few signs of running out of steam was **Colt Telecom**, up 56½p to 953p. **Telewest** added 12p to 185½p, and **Securicor** also put on 34p to 538p. It continues to own 40 per cent of Cellnet, which has added an extra 658,000 to its customer base in the past three months. **British Telecom**, owns the other 60 per cent of Cellnet, and sported a rise of 33½p to 939p.

The dilemma facing brokers is whether to recommend the sector. The gains seen, so far, have been so spectacular, that there is an argument that the sector is now fully valued.

The rest of the equity market endured a rollercoaster ride before ending with modest falls. An early mark-up was frittered away as investors became concerned that a strong euro might weaken the pound and prevent a cut in interest rates later this week.

At one stage, the FTSE 100 index fell more than 70 points with not even an opening rise of almost 170 points in the Dow Jones industrial average able to offer comfort. The index eventually closed just 3.2 down at 5,879.4, while the FTSE 250 index also slipped 3.7 to 4,851.0.

Turnover of 839 million was bolstered by heavy trade in the enlarged **British Petroleum** after its agreed merger with Amoco. Dealers reported heavy demand with 187 million shares changing hands as the price advanced 21½p to 924½p. Brokers such as Merrill Lynch and Salomon Smith Barney have been waxing lyrical about the deal, while Goldman Sachs has been moved to raise its earnings forecast. Lehman Brothers also rates the shares its "top pick" in the oil sector.



Victor Rice, chief executive of LucasVarity, who saw shares lifted 7p to 207½p on the back of speculative buying

There were plenty of new year share tips doing the rounds including **Glaxo Wellcome**, up 61p to £21.29, **Allied Zurich**, 47p dearer at 943½p, and **Racal Electronics**, 1½p firmer at 348½p.

Speculative buying lifted **LucasVarity** 7p higher to 207½p on turnover of almost 5 million shares. Weekend reports claimed the automotive parts and aerospace group may soon find itself on the receiving end of a bid from US rival TRW Incorporated. In November, LucasVarity failed to transfer the company's domicile to the US after proposals were rejected by shareholders.

Fresh selling left **Rank Group** nursing a fall of 17½p to 214p in a thin market that saw less than 557,163 shares change hands. Brokers said the fall may have been caused by suggestions that an unwanted parcel of shares may be doing the rounds.

Shares of **Arcadia**, the Top Shop and Burton retailer, slumped to a new low with a fall of 8p to 169p. Credit Suisse First Boston, the broker, is reported to have cut its profit forecast for the year by 17 per cent to £50 million. The group lost face after a shock profits warning towards the end of last year after previously indicating it would hit its targets.

Goldsmiths fell 15p to 154p after reporting that business in its jewellery stores during the four weeks to January 2, had failed to live up to expectations.

Fresh demand for **Pilkington**, up 3½p to 62p, enabled traders to release some spare stock back into the market.

Staffware managed to kill off some of the recent speculation in its share price by saying it knew of no reason for the recent rise. The software specialist will be issuing a trading statement before the end of the month. The price retreated 40p to 227½p.

Two seperate sellers totalling 16,140 shares at 17p left **Sheffield United** nursing a loss of 4p at 19p, making it one of the biggest fallers on the day.

Keep an eye on **Sytner Group**, up another 9p to 182½p. Talk of a bid has enabled the motor distributor to climb from a low of 123½p since the middle of last month.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Bond prices in London were squeezed higher on the back of support for German bunds. But the best levels of the day were not held and shorter-dated issues closed with small losses as investors expressed doubts about the willingness of the MPC to cut rates again when it meets on Thursday.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt put on 56p at £119.64 as a total of 18,000 contracts were completed. Among the conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 rose 30p to £154.48, while by contrast, Treasury 7 per cent 2002 retreated 5p to £107.58.

☐ **NEW YORK:** US shares were sharply higher as merger activity and the launch of the euro encouraged investors. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 145.21 points to 9,326.64.

FRESH FOOD

FTSE 350 food retailers index
FTSE all-share index (rebased)
3,300 3,200 3,100 3,000 2,900 2,800 2,700 2,600 2,500 2,400
Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan
Source: Datastream

AT FIRST appearance it seemed as if all-out war had broken out among the big food retailing groups after Asda halved the price of some of its leading grocery lines for a limited period.

Safeway finished the session 22¾p lower at 279¼p, J Sainsbury was off 31½p at 450¼p, Tesco 9¼p at 162p and Morrison Supermarkets 4p at 275p. Asda, which had initiated the action, managed to consolidate an early 2p rise to finish at 163¼p.

The consumer lobby would like to see prices come down, while brokers are taking a more practical view

Paul Smiddy, at Credit Lyonnais, the broker, says that this is one price war that owes more to media hype than hard facts.

"There is not a lot around at the moment. This is the right time of the year for creating a good story."

He remains upbeat about the sector. "This is not the death of the sector as we know it. Valuations are not demanding," he added.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	9326.64 (+145.21)
S&P Composite	1245.88 (+16.85)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	13415.89 (-426.26)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	9809.17 (-239.41)
Amsterdam:	
AEX Index	n/a
Sydney:	
AO	2832.6 (+19.2)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	5252.36 (+249.97)
Singapore:	
Straits	1400.11 (+7.36)
Brussels:	
BEL20	3645.94 (+131.43)
Paris:	
CAC-40	4147.50 (+204.84)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	n/a
London:	
FT 30	3509.2 (-42.1)
FTSE 100	5879.4 (-3.2)
FTSE 250	4851.0 (-3.7)
FTSE 350	2770.8 (-1.6)
FTSE Eurotop 100	2804.15 (+80.28)
FTSE All-Share	2673.18 (-0.74)
FTSE Non Financials	2738.51 (+5.37)
FTSE Fixed Interest	157.84
FTSE Govt Secs	116.45
Bargains	77404
SEAQ Volume	1026.5m
US$	1.6599 (-0.0041)
Euro	0.7109 (+0.0056)
Exchange Index	99.0 (-0.7)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£ECU	n/a
£SDR	1.1814
RPI	164.4 Nov (3.0%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	163.0 Nov (2.5%) Jan 1987=100

AIM VCT	100		...
Abbey Natl Dublin Inv	92½	+	1
BFS O'seas Inc & Gwth Cap	79½	+	4
BFS O'seas Inc & Gwth Inc	117½		...
Chariot	117½		...
Collective Assets Trust	117		...
Financial Objects	250	+	5
First Active	322½	+	13
Five Arrws Uts Cv Ln 2040	118½	+	1
Marley B	11		...
Natl Bldg Mits Cv Pf	105		...
Natural Building Mtls	5		...
Piccadilly Growth Ts	97		...
REXAM B (100)	96	−	½
Singer & Frd AIM VCT	100		...
Willington	77½		...
Xenova Warrants	13½		...

Recognition Systems n/p (9)	1¾		...
SKD Media n/p (15)	1¼	+	¼

RISES:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
IOC Ind	45½	+ 13	+ 40.0
Cityview	35¾	+ 5¾	+ 19.1
Micro Focus	120	+ 16½	+ 15.9
Orange	794½	+ 96	+ 13.7
Ramsdens (H)	147½	+ 17½	+ 13.4
Fife Indmar	87	+ 7½	+ 12.6
Savills	109	+ 12	+ 12.3
Christie	55½	+ 5½	+ 11.0
Paragon	166½	+ 16½	+ 11.0
Low & Bonar	174	+ 16½	+ 10.4
Hadeo MacLn	58	+ 5	+ 9.4
ML Laboratories	82	+ 7	+ 9.3
Total Systems	64½	+ 5½	+ 9.3
Servomex	127	+ 10½	+ 9.0
Euclidian	121½	+ 10	+ 8.9
Danka Bs Sys	67	+ 5½	+ 8.9
Zergo	467½	+ 37½	+ 8.7

FALLS:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Highams Sys	70	− 15	− 17.6
Sheffield United	19	− 4	− 17.3
BCO Technologies	76½	− 15	− 16.3
Staffware	227½	− 40	− 14.9
Vanguard	152½	− 17½	− 10.2
Hi-Tec Sports	22½	− 2½	− 10.0
Dimension Res	18½	− 2	− 9.7
PSD	322½	− 32½	− 9.1
El Data Prc	61½	− 6	− 8.8
Goldsmiths Gp	154	− 15	− 8.8

Caution still needed

TRADING in the euro is only one day old and already analysts are saying the new currency could displace the US dollar as the world's preferred reserve currency. But while predictions in that direction sound premature, it is fair to assume that the euro will continue to strengthen against the dollar in the short term. It also looks likely to strengthen further against sterling, particularly as the eurozone is stouter than Britain economically and because interest rates in this country are on the downward path. In addition, like the new toy at Christmas, the euro is bound to attract attention as the children learn how to play with it.

Assuming the project continues viably and the currency continues to strengthen against the pound, British companies that export to euroland will benefit. It will give an earnings fillip to the likes of Alliance UniChem, Allied Domecq, British Steel, BBA, BOC, BPB, Compass, GKN, Kingfisher, RMC and TI Group. A strong euro will act less benignly on euroland exporters such as LVMH, Unilever NV, Royal Dutch Petroleum and Bayer.

If a strong euro accurately reflects an economically strong euroland, however, those British companies that stand to benefit from currency advantages may find it harder to compete with European rivals. The extant currency risk in sterling-denominated UK shares also means that shareholders in companies based here could miss out, at least partly, on any merger and acquisition activity.

But the threats posed by failure, as well as unexpected currency movements, mean that investors should not get too carried away with playing euro-forex. Good companies, after all, perform well in almost any environment.

ICI

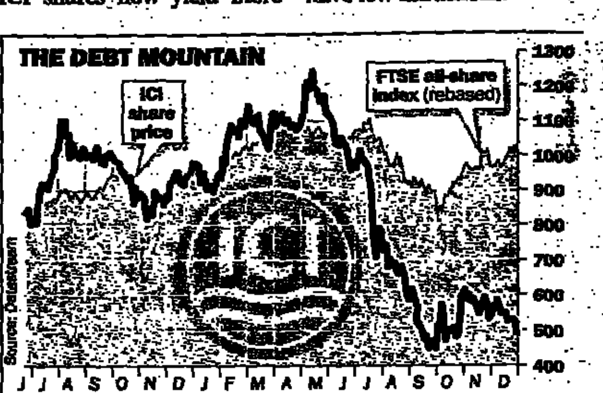
BURYING ICI's industrial chemical history is proving to be a wearisome task. Just when the company appears to have left one big business behind, it grabs back at the ankle like some ghoul reaching out from the grave.

In fairness, Tioxide is not a bad business, having recently enjoyed buoyant prices and good margins. The irritation is that the FTC's ruling will make it more difficult to sell. With obvious buyers now out of the running, interested parties can also play harder to get and that means less money for ICI to spend reducing its debts. In the circumstances, ICI's attempt yesterday to push the flotation card looked more like tactics than a realistic plan. Titanium dioxide is moving later into the cycle and ICI needs to demonstrate it has more than one option, if it is to secure a good price from a potential buyer.

Elsewhere, no news is bad news for disposals. In Halochemicals, ICI is being forced to underwrite a future disposal by paying for redundancies today. Buyers for the Wilton ethylene cracker are still sitting on their hands.

After yesterday's drubbing, ICI shares now yield more than 6 per cent on the promised maintained dividend. However, interest cover is below acceptable levels and the payout is certain to be cut when ICI has completed its reconstruction.

The past should, in due course, be buried, but ICI has an awful lot of digging to do. In the meantime, the shares have few attractions.



Greycoat

THE very mention of the name George Soros used to be enough to invigorate enthusiasm for the most bombed out industry or asset class to hysterical levels.

But his touch, observed and admitted by the world's most famous Hungarian, is not as golden as it once was. This return to earth may account for the less than enthusiastic market reaction to news that Mr Soros is seriously interested in Greycoat, the property company operating mostly in Central London.

Mr Soros's interest is chanelled through Delancey Estates. John Ritblat of British Land, and his son James, are also involved, extending a relatively long-term relationship with Mr Soros.

Shares in Greycoat rose 5p to 177p yesterday. The stock has risen gently since bottoming at 126p in October as speculation about Greycoat's acquisition credentials grew. But the shares still languish 20 per cent beneath stated net asset value.

There should be more to come from Greycoat so buy. The corporate activity enhances the already decent case suggesting that property is an undervalued asset class. However, investors should be careful not to get left holding overpriced babies if Messrs Soros and Ritblat decide to turn their attentions elsewhere.

Tay Homes

OVER the past five years shares in Tay Homes, the northern housebuilder, have fallen from a high of 257p to 107½p. In that time it has underperformed the building sector by about 40 per cent and the all-share index by 60 per cent. Its operating profit margins have similarly underperformed the industry norm.

In the circumstances, it is not surprising that an outside management team with the backing of 27 per cent of the shares is trying to oust the serving board.

The boardroom struggle is a harmful distraction because it means both the incumbents and the pretenders will be occupied battling for control of the company rather than fighting for new business. However, shareholders should be encouraged that two management teams see something worth fighting over.

Both teams talk of seeking mergers with similar-sized companies, which appears to rule out a bid premium benefit from holding the shares. Independent shareholders should demand a premium for change of control, however. There are plenty of other bid candidates among housebuilders and accepting nothing for a change of control would set a dangerous precedent.

The market has not been excited by the corporate action at Tay. But it is action worth getting involved with. Buy.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE


COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Mar	902-901	May	1023-1019
May	922-921	Jul	1040-1030
Jul	942-940	Sep	1055-1045
Sep	962-961	Dec	1080-1065
Dec	985-983		
Mar	1009-1005		Volume: 4898

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)
CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	10.55	+0.20
Brent 15 day (Feb)	11.00	+0.50
Brent 15 day (Mar)	11.10	+0.45
W Texas Intermediate (Feb)	12.30	+0.65
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	12.45	+0.60

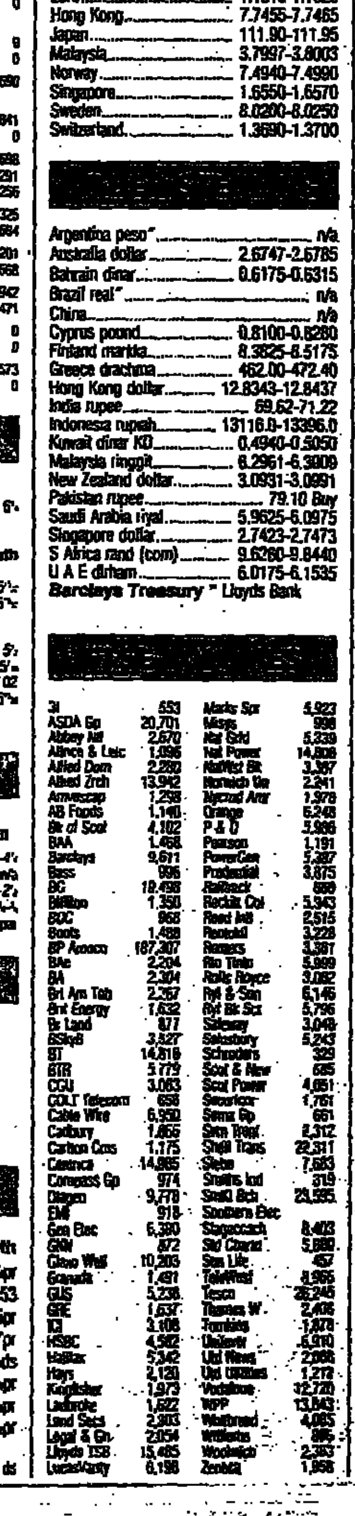
GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Jan	77.50	Jan	77.75
Mar	79.00	Mar	79.00
May	80.85	May	80.25
Jul	82.80	Sep	78.85
Sep	80.60	Nov	80.85
	Volume: 109		Volume: 0

LIFFE OPTIONS

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Mar 99	119.70	119.96	119.50	119.64	21582
Previous open interest 100150	Jun 99				119.64	0
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Mar 99				116.79	0
Previous open interest 0						
Five Year Gilt	Mar 99				108.32	9
Previous open interest 76	Jun 99				108.32	0

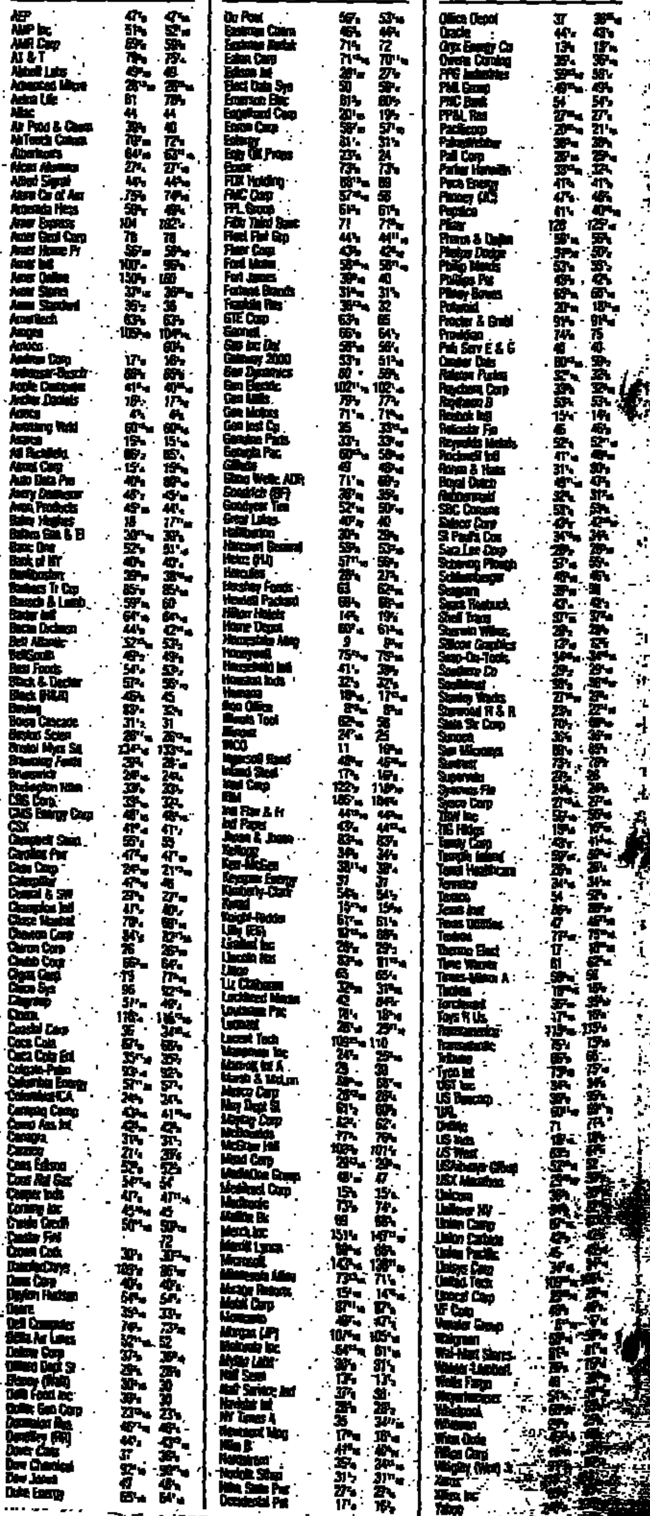


Australia	1.6142-1.6155
Canada	1.5265-1.5275
Denmark	6.3066-6.3091
Euro	1.1810-1.1820
Hong Kong	7.7455-7.7465
Japan	111.90-111.95
Malaysia	3.7997-3.8003
Norway	7.4940-7.4990
Singapore	1.6550-1.6570
Sweden	8.0200-8.0250
Switzerland	1.3690-1.3700

Argentina peso*	n/a
Australia dollar	2.6747-2.6785
Bahrain dinar	0.6175-0.6315
Brazil real*	n/a
China	n/a
Cyprus pound	0.8100-0.8280
Finland markka	8.3825-8.5175
Greece drachma	462.00-472.40
Hong Kong dollar	12.8343-12.8437
India rupee	69.62-71.22
Indonesia rupiah	13116.0-13396.0
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4940-0.5050
Malaysia ringgit	6.2961-6.3909
New Zealand dollar	3.0931-3.0991
Pakistan rupee	79.10 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.9625-6.0975
Singapore dollar	2.7423-2.7473
S Africa rand (com)	9.6260-9.8440
U A E dirham	6.0175-6.1535

Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank

3i	553	Marks Spr	4,923
ASDA Gp	20,701	Mepc	998
Abbey Ntl	2,670	Nat Grid	5,339
Allnce & Leic	1,096	Nat Power	14,808
Allied Dom	2,280	NatWst Bk	3,367
Allied Zrch	13,942	[illegible]	2,241



ECONOMIC VIEW — JANET BUSH

LOUISA BULLER/PA



Protests against the single currency suggest a Little Englander mentality to some and to others serve as a check against a growing air of inevitability

The euro school of thought that is inevitably wrong

British borrowers may be able to enjoy interest rates at continental levels without giving away sovereignty

Driving through a windswept south Devon just after Christmas, a jolly *sight lightened the gloom for a* moment. A small country hotel boasted a welcome for an ex*haustive list* of credit cards and currencies but proclaimed itself a euro-free zone on defiant *little* placards along the length of its garden wall.

To some, *no* doubt, this would be seen as an anachronistic display of Little Englanderism, rendered ridiculous by the epochal happenings on New Year's Day in Frankfurt and even *in the* City of London. To others — notably the 94 per cent of *Sun* readers in a *poll published yesterday who* said that they would vote "no" in a referendum on joining the single currency — this piece of insubordination served as a useful mental check against a developing air of inevitability that Britain will, begrudgingly but eventually, join.

At the weekend, the press was full of such stuff. One recurring theme was that British business wants to join the euro and will covertly take Britain in, *making a referendum of* the people a sideshow. *The Sunday Times* reported that "Britain *is entering Europe's* single currency 'by stealth', as firms prepare to give workers all or part of their salaries in euros." This, the story related, was designed as a perk for employees who could enjoy European interest rates which are currently half those in Britain.

The lure of the euro mortgage is another, increasingly prevalent, strand of the inevitability school of thought. Despite the fact that opinion polls have shown rising popular opposition to the euro, particularly after the rows over tax harmonisation before Christmas, the theory goes that the British, far *more hungry for leverage*, particularly for house purchase, than continental Europeans, would easily be persuaded to change their minds if they could take out a mortgage at 3 per cent.

The other tenet of the inevitability school is the simple observation that Britain cannot, must not, be left out. The leader in *The Independent on Sunday* told us that Britain's choice was between the euro *and the pound*, a *"choice* between realism and threadbare romanticism". It proclaimed *its belief* that *Britain should* join because the euro would work, financially and politically (without saying why). It said — breathtakingly — that joining would involve a "fractional loss of sovereignty".

Do any of these "inevitability" themes stack up as serious arguments that may, in time, effect a seismic shift of British *opinion in favour of the euro?*

Let us take first the idea that British business *is* already ef*fectively taking Britain into* the euro by stealth. One important point is that business (however many *leading* chief executives are now, in one way or the other, on new Labour's payroll) is still not the Government. Companies are perfectly within their rights to pay their staff in euros if they want (bearing any exchange-rate risk that this may or may not entail). They are entitled, nay sensible, to be prepared to invoice and price in euros if they have considerable business in the single market. Multinational companies, in particular, already operate in an in*ternational environment and* the economic policy of the national economy where they happen to be registered is not necessarily the most important component of their business *strategy*. It would be a sign of ineffectiveness if British businesses were not taking the euro seriously and preparing to use it more.

Far from worrying that business, by embracing the euro, will lead the way for rest of us, *it could be argued that, the* more business adapts to the euro, the less of an issue Brit*ain joining becomes.*

Turning to the attractions of cheap euro mortgages (sadly never likely to be as cheap as the Geoffrey Robinson range), this surely cannot be mobilised as a reason for Britain irrevocably ceding control of decisions embracing interest rates, taxation, public *spending*, employment, social security, pensions *and so on*:

Englishmen may be *disproportionately* obsessed with owning their castles, and therefore borrowing costs, but this *is* trivial compared with ceding a far more than "fractional" measure of economic and political sovereignty.

In any case, who is to *say* that Britain will not, in the years ahead, enjoy interest rates as low as, or nearly as low as, European rates? It appears that, at last, Gordon Brown *is preparing* to switch the Government's inflation target from underlying retail prices to the European Union standard harmonised index of *consumer prices. On this* measure, UK inflation stood at 1.4 per cent in November, only a whisker above the EU average. There is no reason why UK short-term interest rates cannot converge with European equivalents as long-term rates have done.

It is increasingly evident that, by virtue of a disinflationary world environment, 1980s reform to the labour market and a far more credible mone*tary framework than membership* of the exchange-rate mechanism provided, Brit*ain's inflation behaviour has* changed. David Mackie, of JP Morgan, began an end-of-year research note with the resounding phrase "now that the battle against UK inflation has been won", noting that the rate of underlying inflation has been in a range between 2.0 per cent and 3.5 per cent for six years.

With an increasingly surefooted *Monetary Policy Committee* in place, this record should be maintained. Indeed, *Britain — outside Europe — arguably* has a better monetary framework than Europe's *which will now be in the thrall* of a European Central Bank that appears determined to be secretive and, thanks to the Maastricht treaty, is strictly accountable to no electorate.

There is an important footnote to the issue of mortgages. Over the years many a *Times* reader has pointed the finger at thirtysomething economics columnists with large mortgages who assume that everyone in Britain likes ever lower interest rates. That is *not* true for savers who are, in fact, far more *numerous* than borrowers. Pensioners, in particular, are *fearful of the low interest* rate nirvana because, compared with their counterparts *on the Continent, they do not* enjoy the cushion of generous pensions to make the loss of interest income bearable. If mortgages are an issue for the spin doctors who are campaigning for Labour's next election victory, savers, as well as borrowers, will have to be taken into account.

The last "inevitability" argument — that Brit*ain must* join because *it is being left out — is* as absurd as trying to get into a New York night club, knowing that *the music is terrible* and the drinks exorbitantly priced, simply because rejection by the bouncer on the door is socially unbearable.

The pro-euro camp has failed completely to counter the view — put repeatedly and in depth in these pages — that monetary union is astonishingly risky on economic grounds, *for the simple reason that it in*stinctively thrills to the grand project of political union that *will now move centrestage.*

The truth, however, is that the European project leaves most *British* people cold as it does many on the Continent. Europe's political elites have driven the euro forward despite such disinterest and Mr Blair may try to do the same. He should not, however, get away with the argument that, just because the euro *is* fact, Britain's entry is inevitable. It is not. The onus is on Mr Blair to make a positive case for the euro or, if he cannot, be Cool Britannia enough to stay outside the club.

AMV may prove a demanding buy for Omnicom's chiefs

It is not so much a happy new year, as a happy new era *in* adland, as Omnicom completes its £346 million takeover of Abbott Mead Vickers. *Omnipotent, as it is nick*named in the trade, now not only owns AMV-BBDO, as *the integrated agency will be* called, but also the initial-ridden BMP DDB (Boase *Massimi Pollitt* as was) and what is now called the TWBA network. All in all, it means *the Yank giant is now the most* important player in UK advertising, controlling nearly *£800 million of annual* revenues.

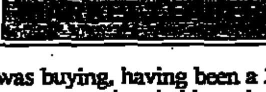
Second is WPP with just *over £500 million through its J* Walter Thompson and Ogilvy & Mather networks. Marginally *behind it is Interpublic*, another US shop, which owns three agencies in London — McCann-Erikson, Lowe Howard-Spink and the awfully named Ammirati Puris Lintas, as well as Advantage, the sports marketing agency.

TWBA is the beast created by Omnicom's purchase of GGT Group, which went through last spring. GGT (née Gold Greenlees Trott) ran into bother when it purchased BDDP (don't ask), the Franco-American group, and found that Procter & Gamble was *about to desert BDDP's* New York arm, Wells Rich Green. Unable to prevent the defection of £50 million worth of business, GGT's Mike Greenlees had little choice but to bow to Omnicom's advances.

Now, BDDP also owned a stake in BST, a small agency formed by the former Saatchi & Saatchi *stars* Paul Bairnsfair and John Sharkey along with the ubiquitous creative guru Dave Trott, who left soon after the *agency was formed*. GGT decided to buy in the shares that it did not own in *BST — so ending up with two* "T"s but no Trott. Sharkey left shortly after the deal was struck, leaving Omnicom with the thorny issue of trying to integrate four agencies into one network. It put Greenlees in charge of the international side and asked Bairnsfair to bring the UK agencies together without the joins showing.

So how has he done? Six months into the integration it looks like so far, so good. The *GGT part of the* agency had, as the Omnicom deal was struck, just won about £150 million of business from NatWest in what much be one of the most successful pitches in British advertising history. Since the deal, it has also been handed one of the most intriguing tasks in marketing, selling the euro to British businesses. It also had, in Trevor Beattie, one of the highest-profile admen in a industry full of egos. *Whether the self-proclaimed*





inventor of the "Hello Boys" *campaign for Wonderbra is as* effective as his PR is open to question, but his high profile *was undoubtedly an asset as* TBWA established itself as a merged entity.

At AMV-BBDO, the issues are rather different. AMV is the Saatchi & Saatchi of the *1990s, the* most successful and creative large agency on the block. Omnicom knew what it was buying, having been a 27 per cent shareholder since 1991, and the links with the BBDO network mean there is no problem integrating the business. However there are two problems that may bother Omnicom — conflicts of interest and business reviews.

In conflicts, WPP's *management* of the JWT and O&M networks have shown that you can own two competing agencies without clients walking out. Having three of the biggest ad houses in London is more of a headache, but Omnicom reckons that it might be able to juggle the conflicts without dropping too many clients. More troublesome may be the marketing services businesses that AMV has been collecting. It owns Fishburn Hedges, the City PR firm, and Freud Communications, the consumer publicity outfit run by Matthew Freud. Omnicom has a big stake in Financial Dynamics, a City PR firm, and Lynne Franks, the consumer publicity outfit founded by the PR woman who was the model of *Absolutely Fabulous*. Don't tell me that these firms do not have rivals as clients.

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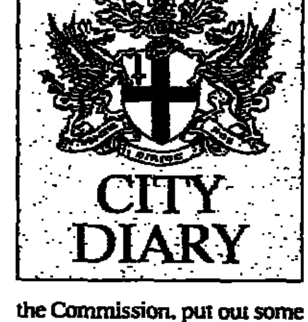
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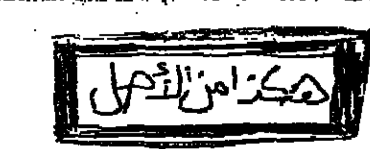
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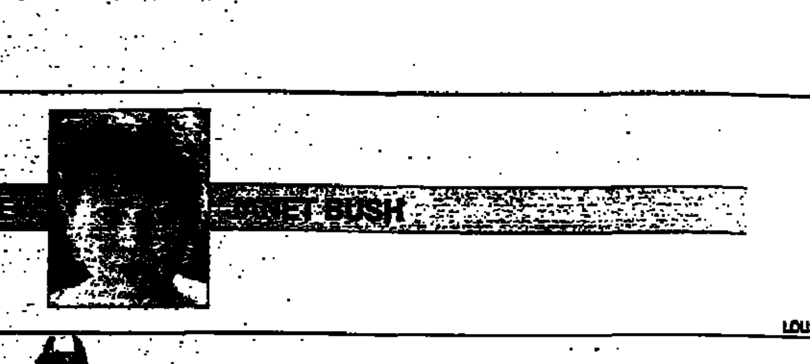
MARTIN WALLER



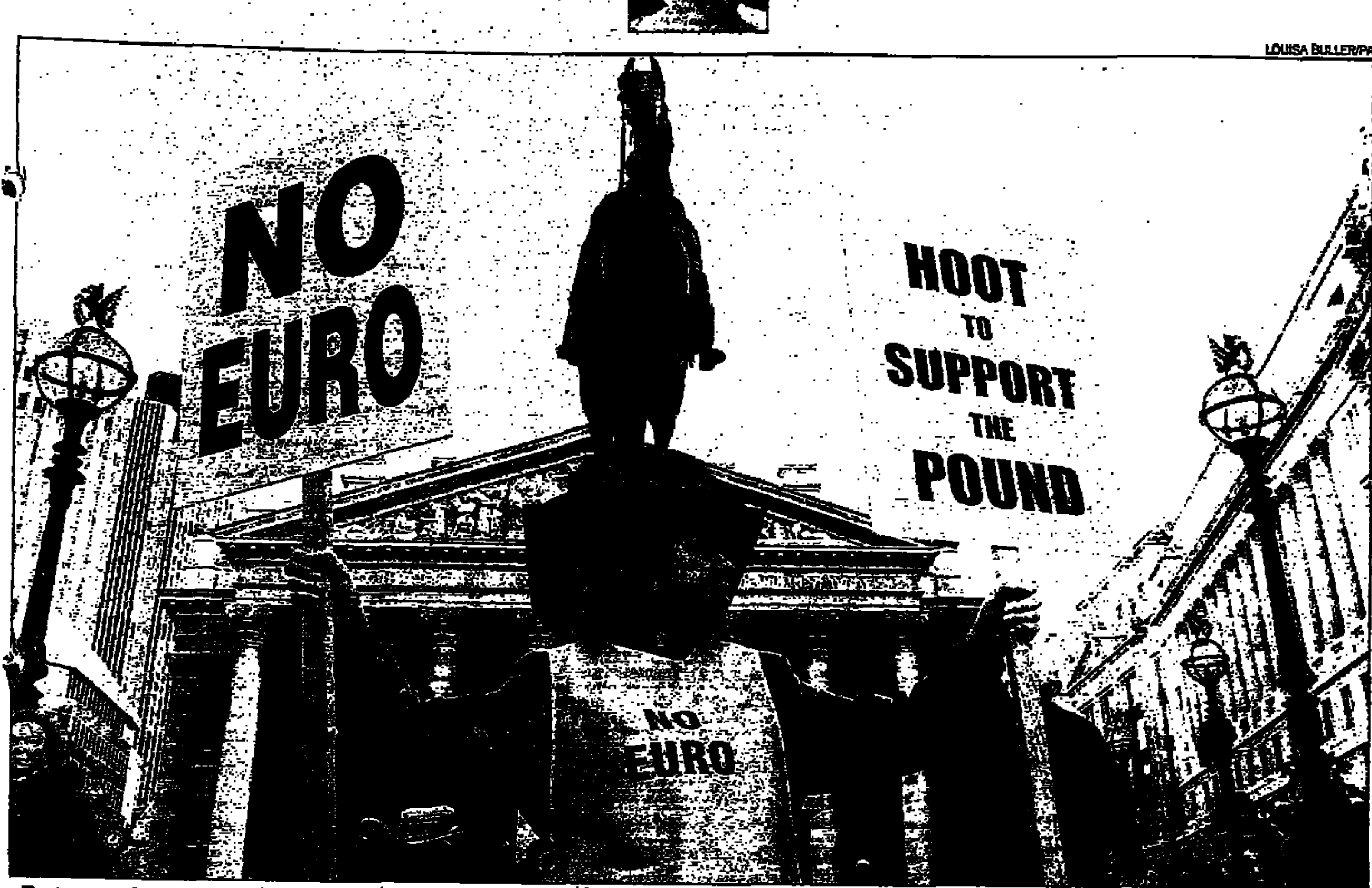
Profit without honour — Moses, by Michelangelo, an unlikely management guru







LOUISA BULLER/PA



Protests against the single currency suggest a Little Englander mentality to some and to others serve as a check against a growing air of inevitability

The euro school of thought that is inevitably wrong

British borrowers may be able to enjoy interest rates at continental levels without giving away sovereignty

Driving through a windswept south Devon just after Christmas, a jolly sight lightened the gloom for a moment. A small country hotel boasted a welcome for an exhaustive list of credit cards and currencies but proclaimed itself a euro-free zone on defiant little placards along the length of its garden wall.

To some, no doubt, this would be seen as an anachronistic display of *Little Englanderism*, rendered ridiculous by the epochal happenings on New Year's Day in Frankfurt and even in the City of London. To others — notably the 94 per cent of *Sun* readers in a poll published yesterday who said that they would vote "no" in a referendum on joining the single currency — this piece of insubordination served as a useful mental check against a developing air of inevitability that Britain will, begrudgingly but eventually, join.

At the weekend, the press was full of such stuff. One recurring theme was that British business wants to join the euro and will covertly take Britain in, making a referendum of the people a sideshow. *The Sunday Times* reported that "Britain is entering Europe's single currency 'by stealth', as firms prepare to give workers all or part of their salaries in euros." This, the story related, was designed as a perk for employees who could enjoy European interest rates which are currently half those in Britain.

The lure of the euro mortgage is another, increasingly prevalent, strand of the inevitability school of thought. Despite the fact that opinion polls have shown rising popular opposition to the euro, particularly after the rows over tax harmonisation before Christmas, the theory goes that the British, far more hungry for leverage, particularly for house purchase, than continental Europeans, would easily be persuaded to change their minds if they could take out a mortgage at 3 per cent.

The other tenet of the inevitability school is the simple observation that Britain cannot, must not, be left out. The leader in *The Independent on Sunday* told us that Britain's choice was between the euro and the pound, a "choice between realism and threadbare romanticism". It proclaimed its belief that Britain should join because the euro would work, financially and politically (without saying why). It said — breathtakingly — that joining would involve a "fractional loss of sovereignty".

Do any of these "inevitability" themes stack up as serious arguments that may, in time, effect a seismic shift of British opinion in favour of the euro?

Let us take first the idea that British business is already effectively taking Britain into the euro by stealth. One important point is that business (however many leading chief executives are now, in one way or the other, on new Labour's payroll) is still not the Government. Companies are perfectly within their rights to pay their staff in euros if they want (bearing any exchange-rate risk that this may or may not entail). They are entitled, nay sensible, to be prepared to invoice and price in euros if they have considerable business in the single market. Multinational companies, in particular, already operate in an international environment and the economic policy of the national economy where they happen to be registered is not necessarily the most important component of their business strategy. It would be a sign of ineffectiveness if British businesses were not taking the euro seriously and preparing to use it more.

Far from worrying that business, by embracing the euro, will lead the way for rest of us, it could be argued that, the more business adapts to the euro, the less of an issue Britain joining becomes.

Turning to the attractions of cheap euro mortgages (sadly never likely to be as cheap as the Geoffrey Robinson range), this surely cannot be mobilised as a reason for Britain irrevocably ceding control of decisions embracing interest rates, taxation, public spending, employment, social security, pensions and so on.

Englishmen may be disproportionately obsessed with owning their castles, and therefore borrowing costs, but this is trivial compared with ceding a far more than "fractional" measure of economic and political sovereignty.

In any case, who is to say that Britain will not, in the years ahead, enjoy interest rates as low as, or nearly as low as, European rates? It appears that, at last, Gordon Brown is preparing to switch the Government's inflation target from underlying retail prices to the European Union standard harmonised index of consumer prices. On this measure, UK inflation stood at 1.4 per cent in November, only a whisker above the EU average. There is no reason why UK short-term interest rates cannot converge with European equivalents as long-term rates have done.

It is increasingly evident that, by virtue of a disinflationary world environment, 1980s reform to the labour market and a far more credible monetary framework than membership of the exchange-rate mechanism provided, Britain's inflation behaviour has changed. David Mackie, of JP Morgan, began an end-of-year research note with the resounding phrase "now that the battle against UK inflation has been won", noting that the rate of underlying inflation has been in a range between 2.0 per cent and 3.5 per cent for six years.

With an increasingly surefooted Monetary Policy Committee in place, this record should be maintained. Indeed, Britain — outside Europe — arguably has a better monetary framework than Europe's which will now be in the thrall of a European Central Bank that appears determined to be secretive and, thanks to the Maastricht treaty, is strictly accountable to no electorate.

There is an important footnote to the issue of mortgages. Over the years many a *Times* reader has pointed the finger at thirtysomething economics columnists with large mortgages who assume that everyone in Britain likes ever lower interest rates. That is not true for savers who are, in fact, far more numerous than borrowers. Pensioners, in particular, are fearful of the low interest rate nirvana because, compared with their counterparts on the Continent, they do not enjoy the cushion of generous pensions to make the loss of interest income bearable. If mortgages are an issue for the spin doctors who are campaigning for Labour's next election victory, savers, as well as borrowers, will have to be taken into account.

The last "inevitability" argument — that Britain must join because it is being left out — is as absurd as trying to get into a New York night club, knowing that the music is terrible and the drinks exorbitantly priced, simply because rejection by the bouncer on the door is socially unbearable.

The pro-euro camp has failed completely to counter the view — put repeatedly and in depth in these pages — that monetary union is astonishingly risky on economic grounds, for the simple reason that it instinctively thrills to the grand project of political union that will now move centrestage.

The truth, however, is that the European project leaves most British people cold as it does many on the Continent. Europe's political elites have driven the euro forward despite such disinterest and Mr Blair may try to do the same. He should not, however, get away with the argument that, just because the euro is fact, Britain's entry is inevitable. It is not. The onus is on Mr Blair to make a positive case for the euro or, if he cannot, be Cool Britannia enough to stay outside the club.

AMV may prove a demanding buy for Omnicom's chiefs



It is not so much a happy new year, as a happy new era in adland, as Omnicom completes its £346 million takeover of Abbott Mead Vickers. Omnipotent, as it is nicknamed in the trade, now not only owns AMV-BBDO, as the integrated agency will be called, but also the initial-ridden BMP DDB (Boase Massimi Pollitt as was) and what is now called the TWBA network. All in all, it means the Yank giant is now the most important player in UK advertising, controlling nearly £800 million of annual revenues.

Second is WPP with just over £500 million through its J Walter Thompson and Ogilvy & Mather networks. Marginally behind it is Interpublic, another US shop, which owns three agencies in London — McCann-Erikson, Lowe Howard-Spink and the awfully named Ammirati Puris Lintas, as well as Advantage, the sports marketing agency.

TWBA is the beast created by Omnicom's purchase of GGT Group, which went through last spring. GGT (née Gold Greenlees Trott) ran into bother when it purchased BDDP (don't ask), the Franco-American group, and found that Procter & Gamble was about to desert BDDP's New York arm, Wells Rich Green. Unable to prevent the defection of £50 million worth of business, GGT's Mike Greenlees had little choice but to bow to Omnicom's advances.

Now, BDDP also owned a stake in BST, a small agency formed by the former Saatchi & Saatchi stars Paul Bairnsfair and John Sharkey along with the ubiquitous creative guru Dave Trott, who left soon after the agency was formed. GGT decided to buy in the shares that it did not own in BST — so ending up with two "T"s but no Trott. Sharkey left shortly after the deal was struck, leaving Omnicom with the thorny issue of trying to integrate four agencies into one network. It put Greenlees in charge of the international side and asked Bairnsfair to bring the UK agencies together without the joins showing.

So how has he done? Six months into the integration it looks like so far, so good. The GGT part of the agency had, as the Omnicom deal was struck, just won about £150 million of business from NatWest in what much be one of the most successful pitches in British advertising history. Since the deal, it has also been handed one of the most intriguing tasks in marketing, selling the euro to British businesses. It also had, in Trevor Beattie, one of the highest-profile admen in a industry full of egos. Whether the self-proclaimed inventor of the "Hello Boys" campaign for Wonderbra is as effective as his PR is open to question, but his high profile was undoubtedly an asset as TBWA established itself as a merged entity.

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MARKET LEADER

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

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MARTIN WALLER



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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Far Eastern	279.80	296.70	..	..
UK Special Sits	68.76	73.39	..	0.30
Fd of Inv Tsts	57.62	61.45†	..	..
High Income #	66.90	71.35	..	4.13
Financial Opps	74.68	79.56†	..	0.50
Growth & Income #	55.43	59.12†	..	2.20
Global Opps	55.09	58.75	..	0.75

LAWRENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT
0171 538 5800

Bridge Income #	408.45	434.52	+ 0.71	4.52
Esk Growth	137.35	146.13	..	0.62
Inc & Growth	98.59	104.88†	+ 2.80	1.76

Smaller Cos	65.30	69.10	+ 0.40	2.16
-do- Accum	141.70	149.90	+ 0.70	2.16
Sth East Asia	230.40	243.70	- 0.90	1.94
-do- Accum	318.40	336.90	- 1.10	1.94
UK Equity #	81.50	86.20†	- 0.10	4.10
-do- Accum #	240.70	254.80†	- 0.30	4.10
UK Growth	1536.80	1625.20	+ 4.70	1.54
-do- Accum	1761.90	1863.30	+ 5.40	1.54

MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD
Dealing: 01277 291 010 Enq: 01903 204 631

European Growth	177.70	182.65	..	0.36

Smaller Cos	107.59	114.46	+ 1.40	1.70
Euro Spec Sit Inc	54.77	58.27	+ 0.47	2.50
Euro Spec Sit Acc	59.06	62.83	+ 0.51	2.50
Pennine Growth	52.36	55.70	+ 0.27	1.56

LAZARD UNIT TST MGRS LTD

UK Cap	581.56	617.00	+ 2.40	1.37
UK Inc/Gth #	622.00	659.60	+ 0.85	3.29
UK Income #	420.70	444.90†	+ 0.90	4.42
UK Income Acc #	444.20	471.40	+ 1.10	4.42
UK Sm Cos	304.90	326.20	+ 0.91	2.18
Euro Gwth	256.20	270.80†	- 0.85	0.25
N Amer Gwth	179.60	138.80	- 0.04	..

Intl Bond	65.65	68.98†	..	2.80
Intl Equity Growth	112.78	119.87†	..	0.32
N Amer Growth	216.23	229.51	- 1.16	0.13
Special Sits Growth	38.47	40.92	..	1.44
UK Growth	635.85	676.43	..	1.84
-do- Accum	914.44	972.80	..	1.84

NEW JOINT INVESTORS LTD

Balanced Fd #	1521.00	1547.60†	..	2.70
Income #	1285.60	1308.90	..	3.98

MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 222 4242

هكذا من الاصل

Equities mark time

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
646	395	Allied Domecq	585½	+ 11	4.5	14.8
412½	291½	Bulmer (HP)	339	...	3.8	14.9
42½	7	Burn Stewart	18½	...	...	...
795	472	Diageo	664	− 20	3.0	20.1
900	675	Glenmorangie A	682½	− 5	2.6	18.5
325	225	Highland Distil	268	...	4.4	12.2
344	115	Matthew Clark	242	...	6.7	8.2
59½	18½	[illegible]	28½	...	...	...
2021½	725	SA Breweries	1016½	+ 9½	3.7	13.4

BANKS

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

CONSTRUCTION

DISTRIBUTORS

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

ENGINEERING

ENGINEERING VEHICLES

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

LEISURE & HOTELS

MEDIA

MINING

OIL & GAS

OTHER FINANCIAL

PHARMACEUTICALS

PRINTING & PAPER

PROPERTY

RETAILERS, FOOD

RETAILERS, GENERAL

SUPPORT SERVICES

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TRANSPORT

WATER

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

GILTS/FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

LONGS (over 15 years)

UNDATED

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:

New group for small businesses launched

By Rodney Hobson

A RIVAL to existing small business organisations, such as the Federation of Small Businesses, the Forum of Private Business and the Small Business Bureau, has been set up by a management expert

Jim Barrington, based on Merseyside, says he formed the Association for Small Businesses to offer the commercial benefits that he says he could not find in other small business organisations. However, he wants to build networks with the other bodies for mutual advantage.

Mr Barrington has spent most of his working life in business, including spells with training and enterprise councils and Business Links. He is now managing director of the Barrington Group, a Merseyside management consultancy.

Mr Barrington said that, when he was seeking ways in which small enterprises could be helped, he found that Business Links worked for well-established companies and that existing business bodies concentrated on lobbying, surveys and other services.

"I wanted an organisation that would save me money or help me to find a contract," he said.

He approached large companies and found they wanted to introduce themselves to small businesses and would give good discounts to win their custom. So he set up the association to obtain bargaining power for small businesses. "We act as an introduction agency or a corporate buyer," said Mr Barrington.

Insurance companies discount their policies. Dun & Bradstreet, the business information company, offers a 17 per cent reduction and the Royal Mail has given sponsorship and provides training on the economic use of postal services.

"The other organisations have their own strengths," said Mr Barrington, "so I want to form alliances with them and network through them. I want us all to work together."

The association has a free newsletter and business guide, and is to set up a website to raise awareness.

Mr Barrington used his own money to start the association, but has introduced annual membership fees of £119.99 for small businesses and £349.99 for large companies. Businesses that recruit members receive a percentage of their subscription. Inquiries: 0151-522 0874.

Giftware firm learns to make the most of colleges' talent

Sally Watts views a family enterprise with a methodical approach to growth

Gifts galore, from ceramics and glassware to sweatshirts and baseball caps, helped to make the Christmas just gone the best so far for Custom Print Merchandise (CPM), a small Welsh family business that began in 2,000 square feet of premises in Cardiff in 1986.

For most of this time, the business has relied just on T-shirts and sweatshirts, printed in-house. However, in the past four years, drawing on the skills of young graduates, a student and academic departments, it has taken off, expanding both markets and range.

"A company can only grow by extending its product range — retailers prefer this as it's cost-effective," says Paul Dinnick, managing director of CPM, who founded the business with his wife, Mary, now financial controller, and sister, Cynthia, her assistant. "Today we are probably the only company in Britain that is designing, printing and decorating textiles, ceramics and glassware in-house. This is why we targeted exports."

After establishing CPM, Mr Dinnick — whose background is in marketing — decided that it was time to expand and that, to do so, he needed to establish three middle-tier roles, including a design studio manager and a marketing executive "to put flesh on the skeleton".

However, he did not act instantly. Preferring to move forward in a "planned, evenly paced way", he applied to take on graduates, or Associates, through the Teaching Company Directorate (TCD). These, attached to the University of Central England (UCE), worked with the backing of Michael Vernon, head of textiles, and his department, which he says has benefited hugely from the knowledge and experience gained.

One Associate, Emma Wilson, carried out a business review, set up the nucleus of a marketing strategy, planned a brochure and researched potential export outlets. Another, Paul Mayfield, helped to introduce computer-aided design and four-colour process separation techniques.

With UCE's help, Mr Dinnick invested £35,000 in a design studio equipped with four Apple Macintosh computers, scanners and printers. He took on a design manager, Barry Barnfield, previously in silk-screen printing, and Julie Worrell, with a publishing background, as marketing executive.



HUW EVANS

Paul Dinnick with T-shirts produced by his CPM giftware business, whose exports have grown rapidly

The business is also benefiting from a much newer TCD scheme, College-Business Partnerships, which links companies with colleges of further and higher education. Erwan Stephens, who has an Ordinary National Diploma in engineering and is working on day release for the Higher at Barry College, is replacing CPM's card index system with computerised management information for production planning, delivery dates and rush orders. This will lead to the third key role: production planning manager.

All this is paying off. Turnover has more than doubled to £2.8 million. The size of premises has increased to 20,000 square feet after several moves. Staff have increased from 17 to 50, plus some 30 outworkers sewing and packing. Paul Dinnick's brother, Ralph, has joined CPM as production manager and Paul's son, Martin, who started at the bottom seven years ago, is now sales manager.

Exporting began to grow rapidly in 1998, partly as a result of exhibiting at Birmingham's export fairs. In a separate initative, CPM won a contract to supply giftshops on a US fleet of cruise ships.

As well as duty-free shops and tourist attractions, the home market includes Liberty, Hamleys, Bhs, and Edinburgh Woollen Mills. Souvenirs will be on sale at the rugby World Cup in Cardiff this year.

Paul Dinnick says: "We're creating our own niche in the market. We're also looking at Investors in People, to develop staff skills for meeting the needs of tomorrow."

☐ CPM: 01222 346434

Endorsed by the British Chambers of Commerce, The Small Business Guide to IT has been produced by Griffin, the invoice finance arm of Midland Bank. The free booklet explains jargon and includes practical advice on what to look for when investing in new technology. Call 0800 343435.

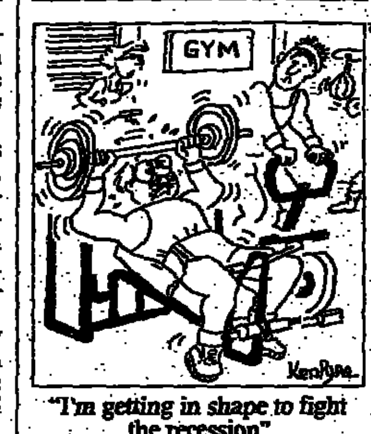
☐ Barclays Bank says it opened 30,000 euro accounts ahead of the launch of the single European currency on January 1.

☐ A second edition of the Complete Idiot's Guide to the Internet has been published by Prentice Hall after the first edition sold 12,000 copies. Information on new online services and creating a Web page is updated. Price: £18.49.

☐ Europe's first Master of Business Administration degree for owner-managers, entrepreneurs and professionals in small and medium-sized firms begins at Manchester Business School this month. The course, supported by KPMG, the accountant, has specialist options such as managing a family business. Inquiries: 0161-275 6537.

☐ A service to help solicitors' firms to examine their financial performance has been introduced by the UK 200 Group of Chartered Accountants, whose members have more than 180,000 clients, including many small and medium-sized professional practices. Inquiries: 01252 333511.

☐ For the first time in more than five years more firms responding to the NatWest SBRT Quarterly Survey of Small Business in Britain reported a downturn in annual sales rather than a rise. Only 37 per cent of small firms said that their sales turnover was higher in the third quarter of 1998 than it had been in the same period in 1997, whereas 43 per cent said sales were lower.



"I'm getting in shape to fight the recession"

Storey calls for state aid for training at SMEs

By Sally Watts

INSTEAD of believing — as many in Government privately do — that small firms are irrational, even stupid, not to train their workers, Government should stop applying "large firm solutions" to small enterprises and offer their workers direct training opportunities.

David Storey, director of Warwick Business School's centre for SMEs, believes it is just as rational for smaller firms not to train as it is for larger firms to do so: training represents investment for the future, whereas smaller enterprises — with short-term horizons and limited resources — need immediate solutions to immediate problems.

Professor Storey was speaking in Stockholm, where he received an award of $50,000 (£30,000) for small business research. This is seen as the equivalent of the Nobel Prize for small business and has never before been won by anyone from outside the US.

Individual workers who receive training, he said, are more likely to obtain employment and, once employed, to earn more. This benefits both the workers and the State, but it is not clear that small firms that train more perform better. "It seems reasonable that they should be compensated for any costs they incur in training their workers."

In a business with an owner and a single manager, Professor Storey suggested that the owner is unlikely to fund the manager's training, as the latter can only gain promotion by changing jobs — at the owner's expense.

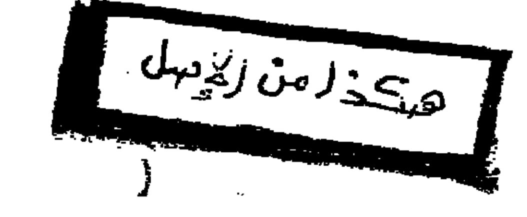
Entrepreneurs, he went on, learn by doing, solving actual problems as they occur. "Entrepreneurs and managers in small businesses appear to learn most effectively in a highly experiential manner. They are unlikely to learn through formal classes and instead require 'bite-sized chunk' answers to real problems which they are currently experiencing."

Professor Storey also urged governments to collate their vast amounts of information, of value to small firms, and to create "information intermediaries" whether state-subsidised or not, which would draw on data bases to handle questions on tax, legislation and such like. Owners need immediate answers, lacking time to absorb massive detail.

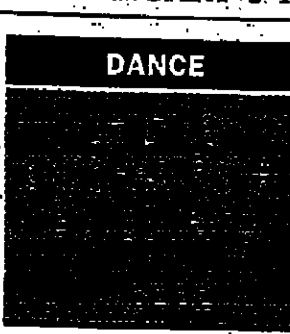
His final recommendation was for a new approach to business failure, such as exists in the US, which regards failure as "a chance event" that provides experience and can lead to success.

TENDERS AND CONTRACTS

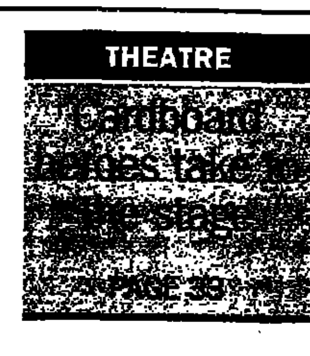








THE TIMES
ARTS





Cast out of sad memory

GALLERIES: Richard Cork interprets the haunting shapes and shadows that dominate new London exhibitions by Rachel Whiteread and Kerry Stewart

Looking at the year ahead I am relieved to predict that **Rachel Whiteread's** Holocaust Memorial will be among the outstanding art events. For too long the project looked doomed. Endlessly postponed and mired in the murky strife of Austrian politics, her monumental sculpture is now scheduled for unveiling in the late autumn. I hope to be there to see how this steel and concrete structure relates to its sensitive context: the Judenplatz in Vienna, the ancient heart of the city's beleaguered Jewish community.

Maquettes and photomontages of the Memorial *in situ* show an austere, sealed-up building, its rigidly ordered sides resembling library walls facing outwards. But Whiteread's latest exhibition, her first at the Anthony d'Offay Gallery, brings the full-scale physical impact of the Memorial much nearer.

Walking into the largest gallery, we see three double-sided bookshelves in white plaster. Pacing down the corridors between them is akin to entering the Holocaust Memorial and finding, with a shock, that the shelves within have been shorn of the books that once filled them.

Not that Whiteread stresses the emotive charge of the stripped shelves. She simply cast *Untitled (Book Corridors)* in negative, making the spaces between each shelf jut out as solid presences. But the void where the books should sit has the capacity to unsettle, making us wonder why they seem to have been destroyed.

Memories are triggered of the book burnings undertaken

> 'One is reminded of the Nazis' book burnings'

by the Nazis, who knew only too well how to erase history. Despite everything achieved by computer technology and the Internet in recent years, books are still the prime repository of knowledge, and the sight of Whiteread's denuded shelves is bound to provoke an indignant sense of loss.

Books can also be intimate objects, especially when found in homes where they are referred to all the time. In this respect *Untitled (Book Corridors)* relates to Whiteread's consistent preoccupation with domestic forms. Ever since she found her identity as an artist by casting a wardrobe, making it into a place redolent of both privacy and fear, this remarkably singleminded sculptor has stayed close to the household environment.

The most seductive exhibit in her impressive d'Offay show, *Untitled (Fiction)*, is a smaller work where three bare shelves project from the wall like a relief. This time, Whiteread allows the missing books to leave discreet stains of bleached yellow, red, green and blue on the plaster. They soften what would otherwise be a formidably severe piece, and disclose her subdued yet lyrical feeling for colour.

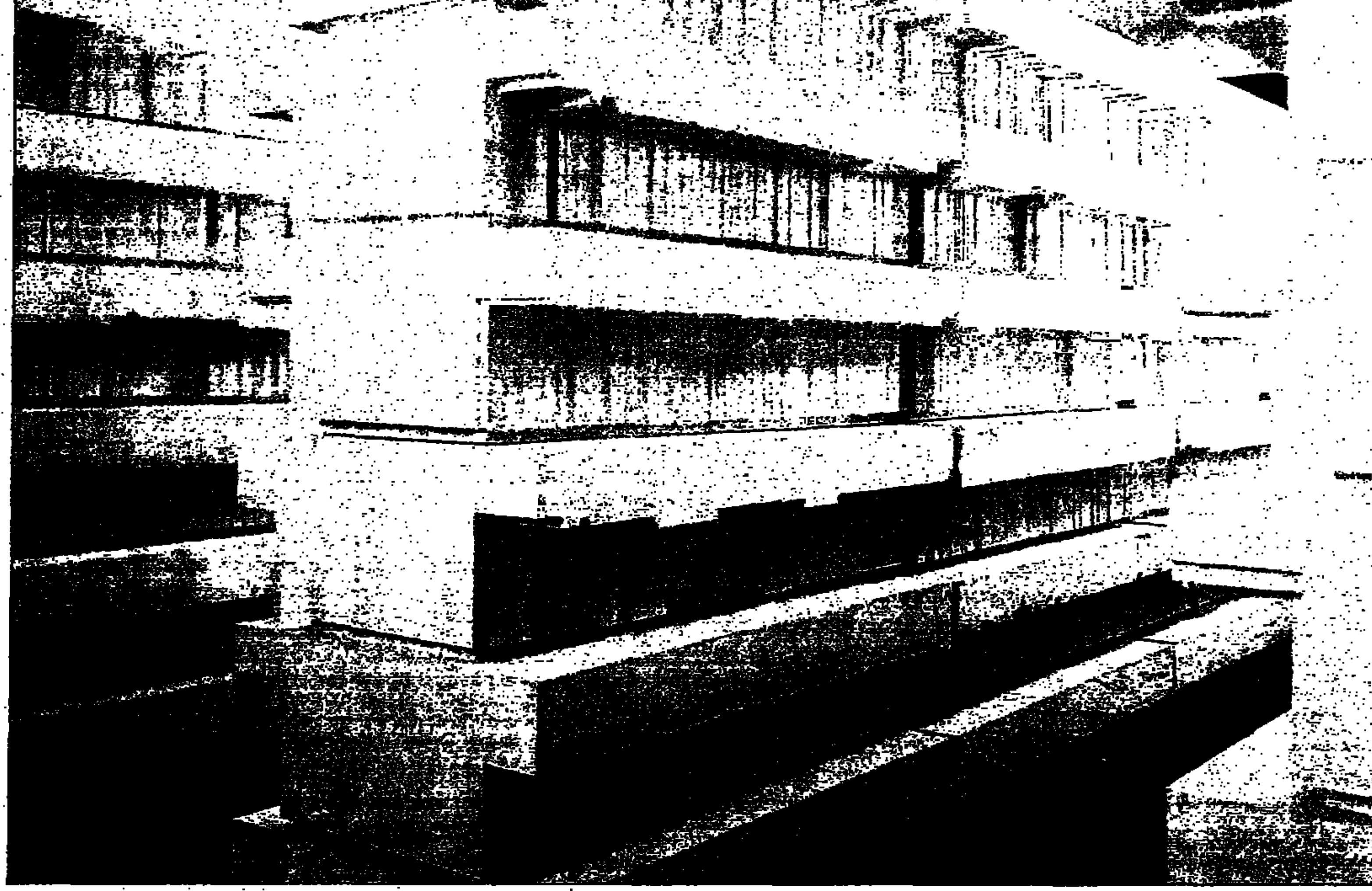
Throughout the rest of the survey, she reins in sensuousness and opts instead for reticence and pallor. The whiteness of the tripartite *Untitled (Elongated Plinths)* accentuates the funereal aspect of these low-lying slabs. They call to mind the sterile surfaces where corpses might be laid out for clinical examination.

Unlike the brittle and pillaged *Book Corridors*, though, all three plinths are cast in plastic and appear inviolate. But this bland, pristine quality does not make them reassuring. They are as bound up with mortality as Whiteread's earlier *Bath* sculptures, and prove that her imagination is still strongly affected by a graveyard melancholy.

She never allows this obsession to become mawkish or self-indulgent, however. The prevailing emphasis in the show rests on emotional control, and Whiteread's characteristic rigour is seen at its toughest in *Untitled (Nine Tables)*. The cast concrete employed here reminded me of the equally grey substance she used in *House*, the most inexplicable and mourned victim of the British weakness for vandalising contemporary art.

At first, it would be easy to see this new sculpture as nine fragments from the bulldozed *House* itself, each rounded into an identical form as compact as a heavy suitcase. In reality, they are cast from the empty spaces underneath stacking tables, the kind of nondescript furniture found in any large institution.

But by the time Whiteread has carried out her deceptively straightforward strategy these banal, utilitarian objects have been transformed into strangely unnerving presences. They rest on the floor in ranks, like anonymous tombs in a cemetery. Their origins as tables can only be guessed at, for Whiteread has brought about a thoroughgoing, infinitely enigmatic metamorphosis.



Rachel Whiteread's *Untitled (Book Corridors)*: the void where the books should be prompts onlookers to wonder why they seem to have been destroyed

Kerry Stewart's icy "car" sculpture: hinting at the disturbing possibility of incarceration

The glacial feeling of death running through this show also pervades the most memorable of Kerry Stewart's exhibits at the Stephen Friedman Gallery. The largest room is inhabited by one sculpture. Peering into the darkened space, we gradually make out the spectral shape of a car. It has been covered in snow, and the coat of frozen particles threatens to obliterate all the remaining identifiable features.

Since the window-panes are smothered, no one can tell whether the driver or passengers remain inside. But the possibility of their incarceration intensifies when we realise that the wheels are paralysed in a piled-up snowdrift. The vehicle seems long since abandoned, and yet the misgivings about continued human occupancy are strengthened by the eeriest aspect of the sculpture: the headlights obstinately shining through their clogged glass shields.

Partially obscured, they nevertheless make the car seem even more of a lethal prison cell than before. Although we can walk right round this sculpture, deftly made from acrylic-painted fibreglass, it resembles in the end a traumatic still from a frustrating, nightmarish movie by the Coen brothers or David Lynch.

> 'A glacial feeling of death pervades both shows'

The human figure, so often the basis of this young Scottish sculptor's earlier work, is no more visible in her other large exhibit. Stewart gives scant indication of who or what might be lurking beneath *Untitled (Hairy Being)*. The title hints that some animate force waits inside this strange, surreal mass of straw-coloured raffia rising several feet in the air.

On one level, it smacks of the farmyard; on another, a cascade of long, straggly hair. But neither animal nor tramp can be detected underneath the dishevelled tendrils. Like many of Stewart's previous sculptures, the phantasmic quality of this apparition seems to belong to some childhood dreamworld. She is undoubtedly fascinated by the notion of viewing adult life through children's eyes, and a diary-like confession inscribed above the door leading to *Untitled (Hairy Being)* is written in an oddly unformed hand: "I was living a sad life, always worried and anxious, with many fears. One day I decided to look up at the ceiling. Maybe it was the newness or the disorientation, but the lower down things couldn't get up that high."

The words' curious blend of naivety and wry humour typifies Stewart's approach. Sadness is offset by self-mocking awareness of absurdity, and in this respect *Untitled (Hairy Being)* is a preposterous comic conceit. Its air of concealment, though, hints at a darker, more furtive and helpless meaning as well — an interpretation made more plausible when we encounter the third sculpture on view.

Crouching on the floor in a foetal position, *Follower* finally allows the human form to be revealed. The barefoot young woman appears casual at first. The longer we look at her, though, the more wan she becomes. With knees drawn up tightly against her chest, and arms enclosing them in a defensive lock, she seems hunched rather than assured.

The title of the sculpture implies that she is listening to a leader's speech. But the message makes her feel oppressed, not enlightened. Everything about the stance she adopts, and her stunned facial expression, suggests that she is in thrall to a domineering, perhaps ruthless, cult figurehead.

Stewart's starting-point, apparently, was footage of the followers who blindly obeyed Charles Manson's murderous imperatives. So when this sculpture casts aside concealment at last, we only find someone incapable of releasing herself from an entrapment as cruel, in its psychological tyranny, as the snow-engulfed car.

● *Rachel Whiteread at Anthony d'Offay Gallery, 21 & 24 Dering St, London W1 (0171-499 4100) to Jan 15; Kerry Stewart at Stephen Friedman Gallery, 25-28 Old Burlington St, W1 (0171-494 1434) to Jan 23*

AROUND THE GALLERIES

Arthur Hughes (1832-1915) was just too young to be part of the original Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood in 1848, but he knew about the activities of such painting "brothers" as Rossetti, Millais and Holman Hunt almost immediately, being then at the Royal Academy Schools from which they had all recently graduated. By 1850 he was familiar with their journal *The Germ*, and by 1852 he had met Madox Brown, Rossetti and Millais.

From the evidence of the earliest paintings in the revelatory show of his work at the Museum of Richmond, he had begun painting in a Pre-Raphaelite manner even earlier: *The Young Poet*, supposed to be a self-portrait, dates from 1849, and though it remains unfinished a fully developed Pre-Raphaelite style of minute particularity is already visible in the central reclining figure.

When Hughes died shortly after the start of the First World War, several obituarists dubbed him "the last Pre-Raphaelite". This was not literally true, since one of the original seven, Dante Gabriel Rossetti's writer brother William Michael, was still alive, but in a deeper sense it was true, and had been for decades. After all, such of the rest as had not died young had mostly given up the strict and particular reading of Pre-Raphaelite philosophy quite early in their artistic development. Not Hughes, however: once he had established his style he continued in it without softening the edges or blurring the vision. The very latest painting in the show, *Caedmon's Awakening*, finished in 1914, is at once recognisable as from the same hand as *The Young Poet*, even 65 years later.

Hughes's draughtsmanship is always exquisite, but what particularly marks him out is the delicacy and tenderness of his colours. He took great delight in a particular narrow range of greens and violets, the definitive examples being the Tate's *April Love* and the Ashmolean's *Home from Sea*, no doubt his two most famous paintings. Neither of these is in the Richmond show, which has opted for less familiar works, such as the Tate's *That Was a Piedmontese*, one of Hughes's works most admired by Ruskin, and the *Eve of St Agnes* triptych, both of which date from the crucial 1850s and early 1860s.

All of these can be found reproduced, in rather too ruddy hues, in Leonard Roberts's invaluable, long looked-for *catalogue raisonné*, the appearance of which (Antique Collectors' Club, £45) seems to be the cue for the show. It is in Richmond because of a local connection: Hughes lived and worked for many years on Kew Green, and is buried in Richmond Cemetery. But then so often these days some anecdotal reason of the sort is what determines whether fine artists of the second grade get any kind of showing at all. No one is going to rediscover Hughes as a towering figure, but the relative neglect into which he has fallen is certainly not deserved, as this exhibition makes abundantly clear.

● *Museum of Richmond, Old Town Hall, Whitaker Avenue, Richmond, Surrey (0181-332 1141). Tues-Sat 11am-5pm, until March 23. Museum admission £2, concs £1.*

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

■ LISTINGS
Cirque du Soleil returns

ARTS

■ OPERA
Roald Dahl première

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON

THE TEMPEST: David Calder is excellent in Adrian Noble's colourful RSC production from Stratford. Barbican (0171-638 8891). Opens tonight, 7pm.

ALEGRIA: The breathtakingly exotic Cirque du Soleil returns to London for the fourth successive year with further prodigious feats of contortions, tight-rope walking, fire-eating and clowning. Albert Hall (0171-589 8212). Opens tonight, 7.45pm.

David Calder stars in the RSC's Tempest, Barbican

PLG YOUNG ARTISTS: The Park Lane Group ushers in the New Year with its annual showcase of fresh musical talents. Tonight (6pm) the Marais Ensemble performs Judith Weir and Ligeti, followed at 7.30pm by Catherine Beynon, harp, Daniel Bell, violin, and Huw Watkins, piano, playing works by Schoenberg, Elliott Carter et al. Purcell Room (0171-960 4242).

PIANO CLASSICS: James Lisney brings his velvet touch and dynamic shading to the evening's all-Schubert programme featuring Liszt's arrangement of Gute Nacht and Erstarrung from Winterreise. Wigmore Hall (0171-935 2141). Tonight, 7.30pm.

ELSEWHERE

MANCHESTER: Classic wartime hits are brought to life by the Glenn Miller Orchestra and the Jiving Lindy Hoppers in tonight's concert which includes such classic numbers as *Moonlight Serenade, String of Pearls and Little Brown Jug. Colin Anthony* and Jan Messeder provide vocals backed by the Moonlight Serenaders. Bridgewater Hall (0161-907 9000). Tonight, 7.30pm.

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London
■ House full, returns only ◪ Some seats available □ Seats at all prices

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE: The D'Oyly Carte Company comes to the West End with Gilbert and Sullivan's joyful adventures with pirates, policemen and a modern major-general. Queens (0171-494 5041).

CHICAGO: Maria Friedman injects new blood into the hit revival of Kander and Ebb's musical about murder and fickle fame. Adelphi (0171-344 0055).

DICK BARTON SPECIAL AGENT: Journey back to the 1940s with the famous old radio thriller, brought to life by Phil Wilmott. Ted Craig directs. Warehouse, Croydon (0181-680 4060).

THE GOLEM: David Burt and Gaye Brown star in Sylvia Freedman and Cathy Shostak's uplifting new musical about the man-made monster who runs amok. New End (0171-794 0022).

JESUS MY BOY: Tom Conti in John Dowie's fitfully amusing comedy giving Joseph's side of the story. Apollo, W1 (0171-494 5070).

PETER PAN: Justin Salinger in the title role, with David Troughton as Captain Hook, in return of Fiona Laird's enjoyable production. Olivier (0171-452 3000).

THE SNOWMAN: The much-loved Raymond Briggs characters soar over the audience in Bill Alexander's joyful production. Peacock (0171-863 8222).

THE KING AND I: Whistle a happy tune with Phil Willmott's Steam Factory production of the feelgood Rodgers and Hammerstein musical. BAC (0171-223 2223).

ARABIAN NIGHTS: Ali Baba, Sinbad and lesser known tales adapted and directed by Dominic Cooke for the Christmas show. Young Vic (0171-928 6363).

CINDERELLA: Neil Bartlett and the Shockheaded Peter team stage a seriously wonderful version of Angela Carter's panto. Magic provided by Paul Kieve. Lyric (0181-741 8701/2311).

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

Geoff Brown's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

THE ACID HOUSE (18): Three darkly comic tales of drugs, drink and hallucination by Irvine Welsh. An indigestible onslaught. With Stephen McCole, Ewen Bremner, and Kevin McKidd. Director, Paul McGuigan

SITCOM (18): A French bourgeois family unbuttons itself. Mildly diverting lampoon, excellently acted ensemble cast. Director, Francois Ozon

STAR TREK: INSURRECTION (PG): Patrick Stewart's Enterprise crew come to the rescue of a peaceable race who have found the elixir of youth. Lightly likeable. With Donna Murphy, F. Murray Abraham. Director, Jonathan Frakes

Technically dazzling, but sabotaged by a woolly script. With Annabella Sciorra, Cuba Gooding Jr and Max Von Sydow. Director, Vincent Ward.

THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (U): Splendid animation, but there's not much for kiddies in the biblical story of Moses leading the Israelites to the promised land. Voice talents include Val Kilmer and Ralph Fiennes.

CURRENT

ENEMY OF THE STATE (15): Will Smith's lawyer tumbles unwittingly upon a political conspiracy. Exciting and fast-paced thriller, with Gene Hackman and Jon Voight

THE MIGHTY (PG): Endearing tale of two outcast children, one hulking, the other crippled, who pool their resources. Peter Chelsom directs

WHAT DREAMS MAY COME (15): Robin Williams wades through the afterlife trying to find his loved ones

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U): Everyone's favourite talking pig faces the torments of the hostile city. Grotesque, misguided sequel to the hit film. With Magda Szubanski.

DANCING AT LUGHNASA (PG): Compressed and perfunctory version of Brian Friel's play about five spinster sisters in 1930s Donegal. With Meryl Streep, Catherine McCormack and Kathy Burke, director, Pat O'Connor

RUSH HOUR (15): LA and Hong Kong cops join forces on a kidnap case. Routine fare, enlivened by Asian legend Jackie Chan and motormouth comic Chris Tucker. Director, Brett Ratner.

TWILIGHT (15) Down-at-heel private eye (Paul Newman) is lured into a murder mystery. Inconsequential plot, but a wonderful cast. With Gene Hackman, Susan Sarandon, James Garner. Director, Robert Benton.

BILL COOPER



An impressive dancer, but can he act? Carlos Acosta, the Royal Ballet's new Cuban star, makes his debut as Colas in Ashton's *La Fille mal gardée*

Man in the mirror

DANCE

Even before five male dancers suddenly announced they were leaving mid-season, the Royal Ballet knew it had a problem with men. It had already lost two of its biggest stars when Tetsuya Kumakawa flew the nest (to spread his wings with his own Japanese-backed ensemble) and Irek Mukhamedov reached the end of his career as a full-time member of the company (he is now billed as a guest artist). And with suitable male partners in short supply, the Royal was relying on a foreign visitor, the Kirov's Igor Zelensky, to partner Darcey Bussell.

So a lot depends on the company's newest male recruit, the Cuban dancer Carlos Acosta. He joined the Royal Ballet as a principal dancer earlier this season (from the Houston Ballet) and it is easy to see why Anthony Dowell hired him. Acosta is a fine specimen of a dancer, beautifully proportioned, strongly muscled and impressively virtuosic. But after seeing his debut in Ashton's *La Fille mal gardée* last week one has to wonder just how useful he will prove to be.

Acosta's good points are very good indeed. He makes choreography look big and important, and Ashton's excursions into flashy, virile writing sit very well on Acosta's body. His gorgeous feet add real dazzle to his beats and he jumps with the power of a stallion. But his idea of characterisation is to grin indiscriminately, like a man in a toothpaste ad, and his obvious self-regard gets in the way of telling the choreographer's story.

Acosta was partnering Belinda Hatley, who was also making her debut in the ballet. Her Lise didn't quite connect, and in the early stages one wondered if she wasn't put out by Acosta's narcissism — his Colas seemed more interested in duetting with his own reflection than in winning the hand of the winsome Lise.

Hatley is a lovely dancer, but her performance here was undistinguished and there was little amorous interaction between her and Acosta. Act III did bring happier news as Hatley bloomed, her Lise finally stirred into a flutter of romantic excitement, and Acosta, somewhat belatedly, discovered the partnering spirit.

Young love is, of course, at the heart of Ashton's sunny bucolic comedy, but it is the character of Alain who tugs at the heartstrings. The simpleton son of a prosperous vineyard owner, he may have money but he will never have love. It is a sad clown of a role, sometimes played for laughs, sometimes for tears. But as played by Jonathan Howells, it is little short of heartstopping.

As a physical comedian Howells has the grace of Chaplin and the profound expressiveness of the great French mime Jean-Louis Barrault. His impulsive bursts of childish frolicking fill him with radiant joy and his face beams expectantly at the sight of the maypole, with its exhilarating promise of merriment. Yet within minutes he is cut to the quick by the harvesters' cruel mockery, the emotional wounding cruelly etched in his face.

And as he gazes forlornly at the diamond ring which has suddenly lost its purpose, Howells reminds us that not everything in Ashton's idealised countryside is blessed. In this role, at least, the Royal Ballet has found the perfect man.

DEBRA CRAINE

Right, said Frédéric

CONCERT
Kevin Kenner
Wigmore Hall

RECITALS devoted to one composer can be like exhibitions focusing on a single artist: the audience's journey from one piece to another depends entirely on presentation. In his all-Chopin programme at the Wigmore Hall, Kevin Kenner made up for a slightly apologetic platform manner with playing that drew the listener in, and a sequence of works so satisfying that some unsettled moments early on were all but forgotten.

With credentials that include winning the 1990 International Chopin Competition, this American pianist has made a speciality of the great Polish composer. It might have been interesting to hear him in other composers, but there was no doubting his affinity for this music: his opening Prelude in C sharp minor, Op 45, revealed flexible pianism and showed that he commands a full, warm sound.

The first of the Four Scherzos, though, seemed insecure. Kenner rushed through the outer sections, swallowing up the notes in a churning mass of sound; the introspective middle, based on a Polish Christmas tune, came as welcome relief and demonstrated a fine sense of rubato. Things improved with the Scherzo No 2, in which his dazzling fingerwork had greater clarity, and his approach to the third in the set was completely satisfying. He was most at ease in the brilliant Scherzo No 4, capturing its mixture of radiance and melancholy.

Kenner prefaced the major work of the concert, the Sonata No 2 in B flat minor, with four smaller pieces, although there was nothing insignificant about any of them. Indeed, the Nocturne in E flat major, Op 55 No 2, is an extended outpouring of textured melody, and Kenner shaped it impressively. Although he played the biggest of Chopin's Mazurkas, Op 56 No 3 in C minor, with improvisatory freedom, its structure was less clear. Still, its C major companion piece, a simpler work that looks back at the dance form's roots, and the posthumously published F minor Mazurka made effective contrasts.

And so to the Sonata. Kenner unfolded the impassioned first movement with total conviction, and followed it with a fiery Scherzo. Dark undertones here made the Funeral March an inevitability, but his handling of both this well-known music and the ghostly Presto that follows signalled a pianist of individuality.

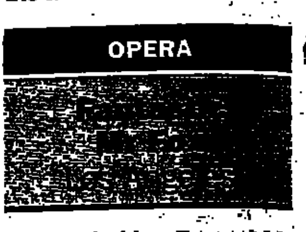
JOHN ALLISON

More sugar please

It must have looked good on paper: a children's opera based upon Roald Dahl's satirical tale *Fantastic Mr Fox*, with designs by Gerald Scarfe, to be composed by Tobias Picker. Picker's first opera, *Emmeline*, suggested that although most of the composer's previous work had been written for the symphony orchestra, he was a natural for the lyric stage. Yet many fine artists have stumbled when creating works for children.

Dahl's story, as played out at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, is vivid and engaging: a trio of evil farmers vow to root

OPERA



out the dashing Fox and his family, using terrifying female farm machines, but our hero, with the aid of the other animals of the forest, outfoxes them.

The trick to writing for children is to capture their fancy without condescending to them by ladling on sugar. Yet Picker's score, written in an arid, one-size-fits-all modernism, could use a dash of sweetening. The dynamism and narrative thrust of *Emmeline* is nowhere apparent in the new score, and he imposes little or no stylistic distinction between the nice animals and the wicked farmers. Apart from a lovely children's chorus of tree sprites, and a brash aria for the earth-digging machine, there isn't a melody in sight.

There were some excellent performances, particularly by Gerald Finley in the name part, and by Jamie Offenbach as the demonic, rake-thin Farmer Bean. Josepha Gayer made the most of her turn as the vampish Rita the Rat, but Picker's music for her manages to be at once jagged and shapeless. The libretto, by Donald Sturrock (formerly a producer and director for the BBC), makes the mistake of attempting to "enliven" Dahl's lively story with contemporary slang and catchphrases — which only enhances the impression that the music inhabits a different world from that of the drama.

Los Angeles Opera mounted a lavish enough production of Scarfe's exuberant, witty designs, but my date for the evening, aged 11, pronounced the piece "kind of boring — it sounded just like when the kids at school are making fun of modern music".

JAMIE JAMES

■ EDUCATION
Performers speak out

Give our children what we received

As a government committee ponders the sad state of arts education, Simon Tait asks performers and writers how their own offspring fare

Music, says the opera singer Lesley Garrett, is an expression of the community. "It's where I got my music from, in the heavy-industry communities of South Yorkshire. But school as a community is the essence of a child's life, so music must happen there." These days, however, it mostly doesn't. And with arts teaching taking an increasingly peripheral place in the curriculum and the number of specialist teachers dwindling, it is unlikely to.

The Education Secretary, David Blunkett, was accused of betraying our creative talent when he announced a year ago that education would be centred on numeracy and literacy. He responded by setting up a committee for creative and cultural education, and commissioning Professor Kenneth Robinson to write a report on the place of the arts in the curriculum, which is expected later this month.

Artists themselves are rarely asked for an opinion, though, and many owe their careers — careers which contribute substantially to the £5 billion a year earned by the creative industries in Britain — to the influence of enlightened teachers. Today, according to a new report by the Royal Society of Arts, the chances of finding a cultural Mr Chips are becoming slimmer by the year.

It's a point the Arts Council's education director, Pauline Tambling, has been trying to get across as she works with curriculum planners and with Robinson. "Young children rarely say they can't paint or dance or sing, but many older people who have not been encouraged to be creative are negative about their own abilities," she says.

Garrett was lucky: there were professional musicians in her family, and she went to a school specialising in creative teaching, so that German and French lessons were peppered with music and art as well as language. "I would not be doing what I am if it wasn't for that school," she says.

For her own children, Jeremy, five, and Chloe, four, at nursery school in North London, she had to find and pay for education with the creative input she wants for them. "In my day creative work often happened out of school hours. I couldn't wait for 4 o'clock when there would be rehearsals for the play or the choir. Now teachers have such a struggle with paperwork that they don't have time."

The composer Howard Skempton's Birkenhead choir school taught him music, and his 13-year-old son Sam goes to a comprehensive where the arts are an important part of the curriculum. "But emphasis on the arts is entirely dependent on the enthusiasm of the head teacher," he says. "It is ridiculous that he has to sacrifice something else in order to include something which should be fundamental."

Tony Haygarth, the actor familiar from many television series including the current *Where The Heart Is*, left school at 15 to become a fruit porter, but he had had the benefit of an enlightened head teacher who introduced him to Shakespeare and organised theatre outings. His children are Becky, 12, and Katie, 14. Recently he joined them on an outing from their Tunbridge Wells school to see a travelling theatre company known for education work. "It was a Hungarian play, inappropriate for kids; we couldn't follow the plot, and the teachers weren't properly prepared," he says.

"The importance of creative teaching in school is simple. All animals have five senses, but we have a sixth sense that recognises beauty. If you don't teach children how to use that ability you're shutting them out of a natural entitlement."

The sculptor Antony Gormley says Blunkett's move had "seriously disillusioned arts and music teachers". But the RSA report, *The Disappearing Arts?*, shows that they were already disillusioned: last year recruitment for teaching art is down 12 per cent, and for music 23 per cent.

"All education should always have creativity integrated as a leading force because it teaches people who they are, and helps them in getting to know how they can explore themselves visually," he says. "It could be in dance, performance, music, it doesn't matter if it isn't painting, but creativity is at the core of learning."

He sends his children, Ivo, 16, Guy, 13, and Paloma, 11, to a progressive fee-paying school in Golders Green. "Its arts teaching leaves much to be desired," he says. "If I knew of a school that took it seriously I might move them, but do you know of one? It's not enough to have teachers who can teach the arts. We should have artists who can teach."

Gormley's fellow Royal Academician, the painter and engraver Christopher Le Brun, also sends his children, Luke, 14, Lily, 12, and Edmund, 8, to a Dulwich fee-paying school which has a reputation for design teaching.

"Lily is a good artist," he says. "But there's very little painting or drawing. It's been a huge disappointment. The value of design is demonstrable, but you can't demonstrate the value of fine art so it is seen as secondary to design. But fine art is the primary art, not definable by words. The cultural industries in this country have never been bigger, while the standards of drawing have never been weaker."

The novelist Jim Crace's two children, Tom, 17, and Lauren, 12, are at Birmingham comprehensives. He went to Enfield Grammar School where the most up-to-date literature for study was Lawrence's *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, whereas Tom is currently reading Attwood and Heaney. But narrative is not taught.

Crace believes that learning narrative is vital. "The human being is the only animal that can recall the past and imagine the future, and you become socially successful if you have a narrative sense, because then you are able to talk. You can get through life without mental arithmetic, but not without a narrative sense. To ignore these chambers of children's minds and hearts is a huge mistake."



Lesley Garrett, opera singer: "These days teachers have such a lot of paperwork to do that they often don't have time for out-of-hours cultural activities"

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■ RODRIGO'S CONCIERTO DE ARANJUEZ
Reviewed by David Huckvale

BACK in 1971 Geoff Love, otherwise known as Manuel and the Music of the Mountains, added a gentle rhythm track and a heavenly choir to the famous tune from the second movement of Rodrigo's 1939 guitar concerto and found himself with a hit in the pop music charts. It has been called the most popular of all 20th-century concertos, and there is even a version for harp, though unlike the gentle rhythm track of the pop version, the harp version was in fact arranged by Rodrigo himself.

A musical response to the beautiful parks of the Aranjuez palace that lies between Madrid and Toledo in Spain, this piece is so skilfully orchestrated that it almost plays itself. Performances fail only when the guitar dominates the complementary orchestral details or takes liberties with Rodrigo's carefully indicated instructions.

Julian Bream has made four recordings. The best is from 1974 with John Eliot Gardiner and the Monteverdi Orchestra and if you are looking for a mid-price version, this is the one to go for. But Bream's approach is more strident than Goran Sollscher with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, which is one of the better full-price versions. Sollscher's approach is equally disciplined but much gentler, but unfortunately the overall orchestral tone is not as mellifluous as it could be.

Pepe Romero with Neville Marriner and the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields is a close contender, but Romero is less disciplined and self-effacing than **John Williams** with the **Philharmonia** under **Louis Frémaux** (Sony Classical SK 37848, £15.99). Williams's tone is resonant but beautifully mellow, nothing is over-emphasised in his account, orchestral details are clearly enunciated and the overall texture of the Philharmonia under Frémaux wins on warmth, balance and clarity.

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Next Saturday on Radio 3 (11am): Debussy's Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune

THEATRE: The Cardboard Citizens company plays to a select audience — the homeless. **Hettie Judah** reports

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Issue-based theatre is not generally a term to thrill audiences: the idea of being trapped in a darkened room and being ranted at by a group of performers with an axe to grind is probably most people's idea of entertainment hell. As a result, most productions with a point to make tend to end up preaching to the converted; one is unlikely to clamour to see a satire on contemporary environmental policy if one is a member of a forest-pulping lobby group, for instance.

None of this would really matter if the world were a perfect place populated by a thoughtful citizenry, but the fact is that we would all benefit from having our complacent worldview shaken up from time to time. Theatre is an ideal medium for such provocation, but how to use it without resorting to didacticism?

The answer, according to the Brazilian theatre guru Augusto Boal, is to develop a form of theatre based around inclusivity rather than alienation; to let the stage become a forum in which the audience becomes part of the action and, by extension, part of the solution. A necessarily tragic scenario is presented, and the "spectactors" are invited to intervene at any point and attempt to change the course of the action for the better by taking the part of the central character. So successful has this idea become in Brazil that Boal has developed a form of legislation based on forum theatre: essentially placing the law-making process in the hands of the people.

Boal visited Britain last month to display his legislative theatre to a packed audience. While the demonstration worked on one level — intervention was enthusiastic and laws were "passed" by the bucketload — the whole spectacle left a rather unpleasant taste in one's mouth. Instead of becoming an arena for debate, the hall succumbed to what was essentially mob rule because the audience, which consisted almost entirely of middle-class, liberal, white North Londoners, was in consensus on almost every issue raised: anti-Ofsted, pro-pedestrianisation and so on. The exercise became so terrifyingly tribal that it seemed rather an argument against democracy than for it.

The trick to pulling off forum theatre is in getting the balance right: entertaining enough to hold an audience, difficult enough to provoke them and located in such a way that a variety of opinions are elicited from a diverse group of people. One company that manages to do this with considerable aplomb is Cardboard Citizens, which has just completed its twelfth national tour in seven years.



JOANNE O'BRIEN

Cardboard Citizens: Neil Brennan (rear) and Dele Adagunodo

You probably wouldn't have heard of any of the cast, the company's texts are not available from all good bookshops, and it is very unlikely that you will either have seen the tour advertised or managed to catch a show. Cardboard Citizens is a homeless people's theatre company that plays to hostels, day centres and cold weather shelters during the winter months. Not only does it play to a homeless audience, but the company is constituted entirely of actors who are or have at one point been homeless.

Cardboard Citizens' shows are anything but right-on or tokenistic: the scenarios presented are true moral brainteasers that cannot be solved in any one particular way. They stimulate a variety of responses from their audiences, many of whom were not particularly sure that they wanted to be there in the first place. "People share information, strategies and experiences," says the director, Adrian Jackson. "If people are in a situation they have seen in a show they then have a palette of possibilities from which to choose; what Boal called 'a rehearsal for reality on the stage'. The act itself of stepping on the stage gives people a sense of possibility that they might intervene more in their own life; they also realise that they are not alone. It gives them solidarity to work together to crack a problem, but it doesn't work if it's not decent entertainment."

Entertaining it certainly is: at the St John at Hackney Day Centre, Cardboard Citizens' performance started in the kind of atmosphere that would have had most professional actors running for the door. Conversation continued around the Formica tables, arguments raged, people wandered in and out and obscene shouts were hurled at the stage. And then the magic started to happen: within ten minutes the room had almost gone quiet, and by the end people were earnestly shouting out suggestions and taking to the stage with enthusiasm and considerable comic enjoyment.

Without question the company's background helps its players to inspire a certain amount of respect in its audiences, but the real success comes through encouraging people to think, rather than ordering them about. "At it's best we start a debate and leave that debate behind us for a few days," Jackson says. "People don't instantly forget a visit by *Cardboard Citizens*."

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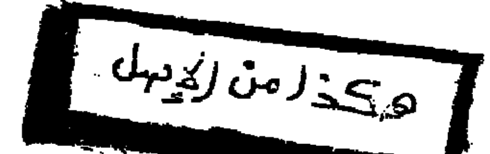
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Dan Brennan, QC: "He wants everything done yesterday," a Bar source says. "He is very action-orientated. And he can be a bit waspish"

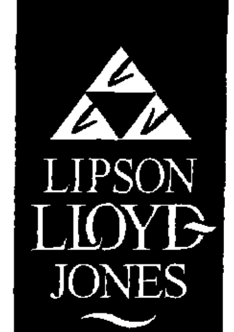
Misuse of funds: civil servants who slip up

A new law is needed to control officials who transgress but a high degree of culpability must be established

When should elected councillors and paid officials be held criminally liable for their acts? At present, there is a vague and antiquated common law offence of misconduct in public office, which has an ill-defined and uncertain threshold for criminal liability, and which depends mainly on a series of very ancient cases.

Under the present law elected local councillors and paid officials of local government are also liable to a surcharge if they misuse their official positions. In early 1997, for example, the High Court ordered Dame Shirley Porter and another councillor to pay £27,023,376 to Westminster council on the basis that they had, "by wilful misconduct", caused a loss to the council of that amount, a decision which they are now challenging.

The surcharge remedy was looked at by the Committee on Standards in Public Life under Lord Nolan which produced a report in July 1997 recommending that consideration be given to the introduction of a statutory offence of misuse of public office, and asking for comments.



STEPHEN SILBER, QC

The standards committee drew attention to the strong views held in some quarters that whereas elected local councillors and paid officers of local government may be liable to a penalty surcharge in the event of losses to the taxpayer, no such penalty applies in any other area of public life. The surcharge remedy cannot be applied, for example, to government ministers, to civil servants, or to board members or officers of appointed bodies. The standards committee accepted this complaint, explaining that "no convincing reasons — indeed, no reasons at all — other than the accident of history have been put to us to justify this distinction". The committee was also concerned that a councillor or officer was at risk of being held liable for the entire loss in the case of relatively minor pieces of misconduct, but might not be made liable for much more serious misconduct that had not led to any loss.

In the Westminster case, the Divisional Court remarked that it was unsurprising that the committee had commented adversely on the fact that the auditor had acted as investigator, prosecutor and judge. The standards committee considered that the surcharge was a "wholly inappropriate procedure" and said that it "would not wish to extend or retain it". It believed that a new statutory offence should be defined in such a way as to reflect the common law offence of misconduct in public office and it asked for views on the proposals.

The committee concluded its paper by stating that it would be best if consideration of the details of how *the legislation might be best framed were carried forward* in consultation with the Law Commissioner responsible for criminal law matters. This suggestion was accepted and it has been taken forward in this way, rather than as a conventional Law Commission project, and a new statutory offence has been proposed. *It is being considered by an inter-departmental* working group and a decision will be made by ministers on whether to take it forward and how to do so.

As a result of the helpful and thoughtful responses to the committee's paper, the suggestion is that there should be a new offence of misuse of public office for officials. Others are to decide precisely who will be bound by it.

The proposed offence would be based on an improper exercise of, or improper omission to, exercise a duty or power, and the threshold of liability would be set at a high level. Clearly, an act should be considered an offence only only where a high degree of culpability has been established. To be convicted of the offence, a defendant would either have performed an unlawful act or made an unlawful omission which he or she knew to be unlawful; or alternatively, *performed an act or made* an omission which was improper according to the standards of any reasonable and honest holder of the defendant's office, as he or she was aware. Mere negligence or gross negligence, as opposed to knowing or conscious wrongdoing, simply would not suffice.

There is a very clear risk that an offence of this sort could be used for political purposes. At present, a private prosecution can be brought for the existing offence of misconduct in public office. Thus, under the present law, a member of the opposition on a local council could bring a private prosecution against, say, the council leader, just before an important election.

Clearly, the council leader's reputation and prospects could be seriously damaged by the *mere fact that such a prosecution had* been brought: and even if the case were subsequently dismissed after the election, much harm might have been done in the meantime.

It seems appropriate, then, that no prosecutions for the new offence should be permitted to be brought without the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions. This would also have the advantage that the DPP would have to bear in mind the public interest tests, which would require factors in favour of and against prosecution to be weighed up carefully and fairly. The result would be that the fear that prosecutions might be brought for minor and technical *matters* could be *met*.

'Our profession will face great challenges'

A radical leads the Bar into 2000. Profile by **Frances Gibb**

Dan Brennan, QC, knows what it is like to be up against it. An advocate whose career has been busy with accident victims, he takes on big insurance companies and wins damages — sometimes record sums. But just as he was reaching the peak of his profession in the 1980s, illness struck and he lost his voice, a potentially disastrous blow for any advocate.

Mr Brennan fought to regain something of a whisper and now his husky croak is his hallmark. The croak will be heard often in coming months. This year, as the Bar moves through the final stages of its slow metamorphosis into a modern shape for the millennium, it falls to Mr Brennan to steer it through the upheaval.

Combative skills aside, he is well suited as successor to Heather Hallett, QC, as Chairman of the Bar Council. Both were State-educated. Mr Brennan, whose antecedents are Irish Roman Catholic, was born in Yorkshire. His parents ran a pub in Bradford and his family had no connection with the law. He is a long way from the old image of the upper-crust lawyer.

Mr Brennan told the Bar Council last month that in 1999 "our profession will face challenges as great as any in the past". The reasons are threefold: the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, is committed to legal reform in his Access to Justice Bill; clients are more pressing and cost-conscious; and consumers expect quality.

The Bar, he says, has an abundance of talent, brainpower and energy. "It is therefore my firm belief that we must approach change with confidence and not timidity nor negative reaction." Mr Brennan is not short in the positive energy stakes. A Bar source says: "He wants everything done yesterday. He's very action-orientated. And he can be a bit waspish."

His background is in the North, outside Oxbridge or the inner circles of the Bar in London. He was educated at St Brede's Grammar School in Bradford and Manchester University, where he met Pilar, who is Spanish and a translator. They married and have four sons.

He and other colleagues broke new ground by setting up their own chambers (later joined by such names as Rodney Klevan, QC). And Mr Brennan still roots for the regions and would like more work devolved, with High Court judges based there for three years or so at a time.

Gradually, he came to specialise in personal injuries and medical negligence work and the practice took him to London. Recently named "Simply the Best" in a survey in *Lawyer* magazine, Mr Brennan has made his name with a list of *high-profile* cases. These include acting for the plaintiffs in the HIV/haemophiliac claims, which were settled for £15 million; for relatives in the *Herald of Free Enterprise* disaster; until recently, when he took up the chairmanship, for the lung cancer victims in current tobacco litigation (on a "no-win, no-fee basis") and for the residents of Canary Wharf in an environmental claim that went to the House of Lords.

Mr Brennan speaks of his cases with passion. "When I win £3 million in damages for a brain-damaged child [as he did recently for Helen Edwards, a teenager brain-damaged when aged five in an operation to remove a birthmark], they need every penny of it ... and the Legal Aid Board recovers all its costs."

But he is realistic about the Government's reforms and chooses his battles carefully. The fight over extending rights of audience — the so-called Bar Wars, which have dogged the past decade — are over. He comments: "I accept that the Government is determined to make these changes." Instead, he will focus on the Government's plans for increased state *regulation of the profession. This,* he believes, presents the biggest threat the profession has known. "It is wrong that the Government should have the sole power to determine who should prosecute, who should defend ... who shall appear in court and how cases shall be paid for."

All this was being done, he says, with no statutory objectives as to how the new legal aid funding would be awarded. "Under the Bill, the Lord Chancellor is creating a huge amount of executive power, with no apparent means of testing it by judicial review." The Bar, with help from some of the judges, will fight hard to give judges a vote (with the Lord Chancellor) over such matters as rights of audience and rules of the profession. Mr Brennan says: "Why should Parliament have power to regulate the rules of the profession when MPs themselves need to be regulated by a Parliamentary Commissioner?"

Other changes include reforms to improve the entry arrangements to the profession; human rights initiatives, including a *programme of school visits* and a Citizen's Guide to the Human Rights Act; Kitemarks for chambers to improve standards; and continuing education for the Bar. "I am setting out my agenda for modernising the Bar," he says. "The Government wants to engage in radical change, and so do we. But we want it to keep up with us."

More difficult may be ensuring that the older rank and file keep up. But Mr Brennan can exhibit great charm. As one Bar source put it: "He will be showing them the medicine, and they won't *like* it. *But* they are going to have to take it."

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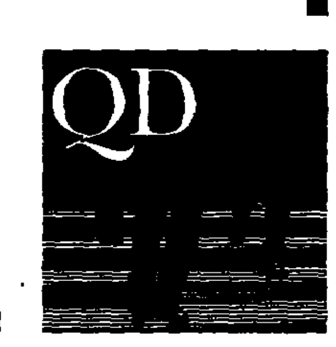
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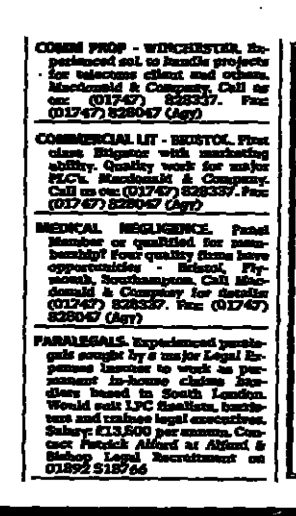
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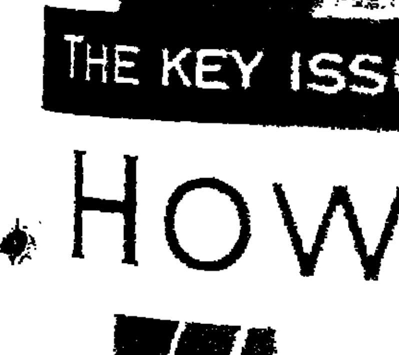
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Holidays: risks of the trade

British tour operators must be regulated, says **Stephanie Trotter**

TONY STONE



A beach resort may look like the answer to your wish for a relaxing holiday. But has your tour operator discovered any potential pitfalls?

This is the time of year when we dream of holidays in the sun. But the killing of tourists in Yemen last week has cast a brutal shadow on the notion of white sand, tropical seas and palm trees. Should holidaymakers take responsibility for choosing dangerous destinations? Does the fact that British tour operators organise holidays imply that they are safe? In the case of Yemen, was it enough that a warning had been issued of a high risk of kidnapping (although until then nobody had been killed)?

If we leave aside the tricky question of a possible cause of action against the Yemeni Government for alleged failure to pass on a message that British nationals were to be targeted, could the Foreign Office be sued if it acted negligently? The Crown Proceedings Act 1947, Section 2, allows actions to be brought in tort, but there is no apparent evidence of negligence.

Nev Johnson of the Foreign Office says: "The Foreign Office issues advice. We cannot actually stop people from travelling, but we will word it as strongly as possible. In Chechnya, for example, we say, 'Don't go, in any circumstances'. With Florida, we state that British tourists have been targeted for muggings there, but it is the only America state where we give advice.

"We never get involved with insurance. The prime information we use comes from our posts overseas. They advise us about how and when advice should be changed, and then we look at it in the broader perspective."

Package tours give the traveller a sense of security: the feeling that everything has been checked out, plus the added assurance of a company representative being on hand if things go wrong. However, on a Thomson holiday in Egypt, the tour representative was blamed by a holidaymaker, Sheryl Scarisbrick, who was seriously injured when she walking into a glass balcony door. She claimed that the rep failed to help her.

Clive Garner, a partner in Irwin Mitchell of Birmingham, which specialises in foreign illness and accident claims, says: "There has been a large increase in the past two years of accident claims against a wide range of tour operators.

"The largest group actions claim of its kind that we are involved with arises from illness among 600 people at an hotel in Majorca.

"More people are travelling abroad now, increasingly on all-inclusive holidays, and tour operators are going to more exotic locations, which increases the risk of illness. If the infrastructure of the country is not developed, as is the situation in the Dominican Republic, there is an increased risk."

Mr Garner believes that consumers are more aware of their rights now and are more alert to the need to gather evidence and instruct specialist solicitors rather than pursuing claims on their own. "What has traditionally happened," he adds, "is that people who have suffered quite serious illness have been palmed off with ludicrously low levels of compensation. They have accepted low amounts because they have not been advised as to what the courts are likely to award."

Future holidaymakers should know that the arbitration service, run by the Association of British Travel Agents, excludes personal injuries. The Package Travel Regulations 1992 enable holidaymakers to sue the tour operator for breach of the holiday contract, leaving the tour operator to recover against suppliers abroad — such as hoteliers. The combination of these regulations, which came into force six years ago, conditional fees ("no win, no fee") and the proliferation of video cameras, possibly explain the recent increase in litigation.

> An independent body could advise consumers and recommend experts

Brenda Wall of Holiday Travel Watch claims that about £60 million in compensation was paid out last year and that many more claims are being processed or initiated. Will the holiday industry survive this level of attrition? Will lawyers continue to profit from these sad cases?

The easiest remedy is, to stop obvious dangers. For example, tour companies could select safer hotels, by cutting out accommodation with locked or blocked fire exits.

If rigorous selection can reduce risk, an independent holiday safety body should be set up to monitor holidays. Such a body could also advise consumers, recommend experts, operate a constant emergency helpline, investigate complaints and ensure that tour operators abide by a code of conduct. Funding could be from a modest levy.

This body could also press for safety measures, European directives, for example, on fire regulations and proper enforcement, and liaise with the Foreign Office.

The Advertising Standards Authority ensures that advertisements are legal, decent, honest and truthful. Funded by a voluntary levy on industry, it works by publicising the trade's misdemeanours — a penalty that could also work in the media-sensitive travel trade.

If the co-operation needed to raise holiday safety standards failed, then mandatory licensing and the setting-up of an "Ofhol", with a regulator for holiday safety, could be imposed by statute.

But this should not be necessary. There should be an independent, funded body to make sure that unpleasant, sometimes life-threatening, holidays are stopped at source wherever possible. Responsible tour operators should be crying out for it.

● The author, a barrister and president of CO-Gas Safety, is vice-president of Consumer Safety International.

Homing in on a new lease of life

Complaints persist about poorly managed flats, says **James Driscoll**

The law governing leases of flats and houses needs fundamental overhaul and, indeed, one was recommended by the Law Commission in its report on commonhold. But despite legislative reforms from 1985 to the Housing Act 1996 (the last attempt), complaints persist about poorly managed flats. The Government has published a consultation paper, *Residential Leasehold Reform in England and Wales*. Commonhold will be the subject of more consultation. Meanwhile, views are sought on other legislative changes to the leasehold system.

A convincing case is made for reforming the qualification rules for a flat-owner's collective right to acquire the freehold: flat-owners living over shops, restaurants or other business premises will be able to enfranchise if the non-residential floor area of the building does not exceed 25 per cent (10 per cent at present); the resident test will become easier (half of the acquiring flat-owners will need to be resident when giving notice to buy the freehold); and the minimum proportion of the enfranchising group will be one half, not two thirds.

> Owners have little control over what they have to pay

Though these recommendations may make it easier to enfranchise, they will not surmount many of the practical hurdles revealed in research (*The Impact of Leasehold Reform*) commissioned last year by the Government. Take costs: flat-owners have little effective control over what they have to pay the current freeholder for professional costs — the paper rejects scale fees but welcomes suggestions. What about dispute settlement? Switching disputes from the county court to the Leasehold Valuation Tribunal has led to complaints about long delays and there are also complaints of freeholders taking further appeals to the lands tribunal to press flat-owners to settle. The paper's arguments for simplifying valuations may reduce delays, but it says little on the complexities of the statutory procedures. Why, for example, should an acquiring flat-owner have to make a county court application if the freeholder fails to respond to their notice to enfranchise? Without other changes, enfranchisement will remain an expensive, complex option for many flat-owners, which a well-resourced landlord will continue to frustrate.

The Government's research also found that the main motivation for flat-owners wanting to enfranchise is dissatisfaction with the management of their block.

If implemented, the proposed new right for flat-owners to take over the management of the block is the paper's most radical proposal. The procedures will operate in much the same way as enfranchisement: no fault on the part of the landlord (or any existing managing agent) will have to be proved and the right can be exercised without application to a court or tribunal.

This consultation paper will not be the only consultation exercise before draft legislation. Separate consultations will be held on how to make flat-owners more aware of their rights and liabilities before purchasing. We can only hope that the Government will find the legislative time for further reforms.

● The author is Professor of Law at South Bank University, London, and a consultant solicitor with Trowers & Hamlins.

RUGBY UNION

Northampton eye opportunity to hit new heights

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

NORTHAMPTON will thank no one for pointing out that victory over London Irish at Franklin's Gardens this evening will place them at the head of English league rugby, an eminence they have never occupied before. First, because the Irish are among the most dangerous floaters in the first division and second because it only emphasises Northampton's lack of achievement since league rugby was introduced in 1987.

Yet this season they have found a consistency in the Allied Dunbar Premiership that has eluded them before, although in 1992 they made a brave assault on the title but ended behind Bath and Orrell.

There remains a lengthy race to be run and an uncertain future that may become clearer after scheduled meetings today, between the Rugby Football Union and representatives of English First-Division Rugby, and Thursday, when the Welsh Rugby Union hopes to resolve the dispute with Cardiff and Swansea. For the time being, however, Northampton are smelling of roses even though Matt Dawson, their England scrum half, seems likely to be absent this evening.

Dawson suffered a "dead leg" in the win over Sale at the weekend and Jim Bramhall has been added to the squad, though Dominic Malone would play at No 9 in Dawson's absence. Ironically, when Northampton won at London Irish in October, it was their other England half back, Paul Grayson, who was absent and his deputy, Alistair Hepher, secured 16 points in a 26-10 victory.

The Irish have undergone a facelift since then but catering for three games in nine days has forced Dick Best, director of rugby at Sunbury, to ring the changes in the hope that he has a full hand to choose from for the visit to Bristol on Sunday in the Tetley's Bitter Cup.

Although many key personnel remain, London Irish will be without Jarrod Cunningham, whose goalkicking has come to mean so much in so short a time. Instead, Niall Woods resumes the role that was his, both as wing and kicker, until Cunningham flew in from New Zealand.

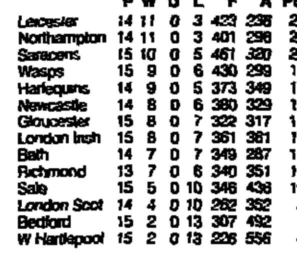
Best has dispatched one of his young England-qualified fly halves, Matt Jones, on a month's loan to Saracens to help them through the absence of the injured Alain Penaud. Jones is likely to be a replacement for the game against Wasps at Loftus Road tomorrow while Paul Turner, the backs coach at Saracens, has cheerfully volunteered his services again at the age of 39 after coming on as a replacement for Gavin Johnson in the win on Sunday over Bedford, who make the lengthy trip tonight to Newcastle, where Michael Wood will make only his second Premiership start of the season on the wing. Rob Andrew, with a cup game against Bath on Saturday to consider, will give some of his Newcastle youngsters a run.

Unchanged Gloucester visit London Scottish while Bath, at Sale, will have Martin Haag at lock for the concussed Nigel Redman.

Although Bath supporters are suffering, Sale's would give just as much for a morale-boosting win. Their reshuffled pack sees Simon Raiwalui back at lock and Alex Sanderson, the younger of the brothers, at flanker, while Steve Diamond hooks so that Phil Greening can rest a damaged ankle.

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leicester	14	11	0	3	423	236	22
Northampton	14	11	0	3	401	298	22
Saracens	15	10	0	5	461	320	20
Wasps	15	9	0	6	430	299	18
Harlequins	14	9	0	5	373	349	18
Newcastle	14	8	0	6	380	329	16
Gloucester	15	8	0	7	322	317	16
London Irish	15	8	0	7	361	381	16
Bath	14	7	0	7	349	287	14
Richmond	13	7	0	6	340	351	14
Sale	15	5	0	10	346	436	10
London Scot	14	4	0	10	262	352	8
Bedford	15	2	0	13	307	492	4
W Hartlepool	15	2	0	13	226	556	4



Newcastle prepare for loss of Ryan

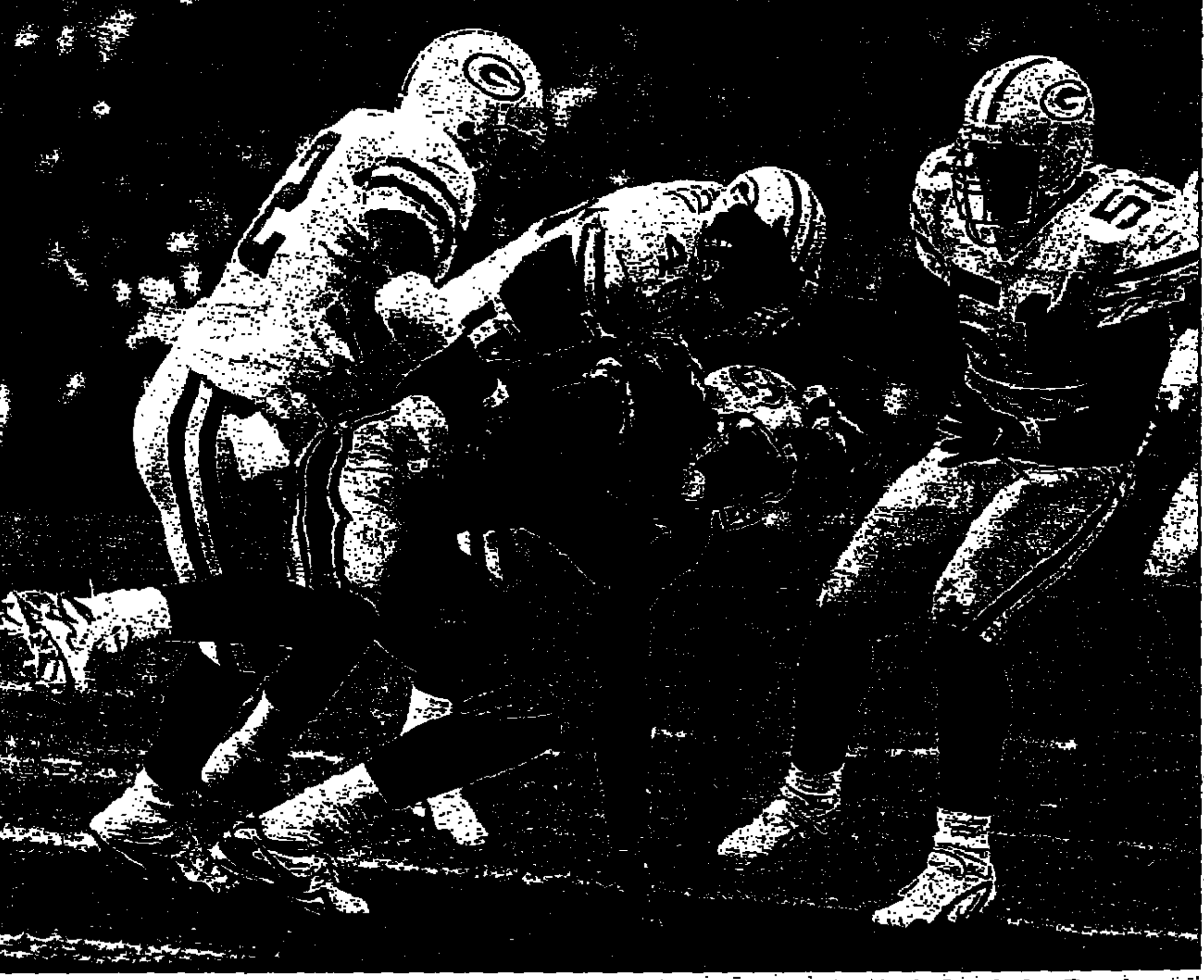
By David Hands

NEWCASTLE yesterday acknowledged the imminent departure to Bristol of Dean Ryan, their Premiership-winning captain last season. Bristol will welcome him later this week but Rob Andrew, director of rugby at Newcastle, drew a line under the ten-year relationship he has enjoyed with Ryan, first at Wasps, then in the North East.

"I am very disappointed to see Dean leave the management team and I tried hard to keep him here," Andrew said. "However, I respect his ambitions and wish him every success." Newcastle remain tight-lipped, though, on speculation that Garath Archer, their England lock, could follow Ryan when his contract ends this season.

Ryan's new position will be more clearly defined after an assessment of a neck injury that will determine whether he can play as well as coach. "I want to develop my career and Bristol have offered me an opportunity to continue playing, as well as a coaching-management role," Ryan said.

Jason Barrell, the prop who joined Llanelli from Waikato less than two months ago, is on his way back to New Zealand after playing only four games. He is to join Auckland Blues, who will be without Olo Brown, the injured All Blacks tight-head prop, for the Super 12 tournament this year.



Owens clings on to Young's last-ditch pass to earn the 49ers a dramatic victory over the Packers in San Francisco

Young's strike sends 49ers wild

By Oliver Holt

THEIR rivalry has become one of the fiercest in the National Football League (NFL). For the past three years the Green Bay Packers have trampled over the reputation of the San Francisco 49ers on their way to establishing themselves as one of the dominant forces in American football. On Sunday, the 49ers exacted their revenge.

The Packers, beaten by the Denver Broncos in the Super Bowl last season, had been the clear favourites to progress beyond the second of the National Football Conference (NFC) wild-card games to a meeting with the Atlanta Falcons that would have moved them to within a step of another appearance in the end-of-season finale in Miami on the last day of this month.

It seemed as though they had achieved their goal when a touchdown pass from Brett Favre to Antonio Freeman took them into a 27-23 lead with less than two minutes remaining. But then Steve Young, the veteran quarterback who has been eclipsed by the rise of Favre, seized control.

Young moved San Francisco 76 yards towards Packers territory in nine plays before he rifled a pinpoint pass to Terrell Owens with three seconds remaining to give the 49ers a 30-27 victory.

"That catch is one of the big catches in the history of the organisation," Steve Mariucci, the San Francisco coach, said. "In some ways, we got a monkey off our back by finally beating the Packers. The way it happened makes it all that more exciting."

The catch was particularly satisfying for Owens, who had already dropped four passes and made a fumble. "I knew I had let the team down," he said, "but the guys stuck behind me and I stayed focused and it all worked out in the end. This is a very emotional day for me."

The first NFC wild-card match, on Saturday, had seen the Arizona Cardinals breeze past another fallen giant, the Dallas Cowboys, 20-7. Jerry Jones, the Cowboys' controversial owner, stalked the touchline looking bewildered at the inadequacies of his team.

If much of the weekend's attention centred on the heroics of Young, though, there was also excitement at the continuing involvement of another fabled quarterback, Dan Marino, after the Miami Dolphins pulled off a topsy-turvy victory over the Buffalo Bills.

After John Elway finally won a Super Bowl ring last season, Marino has become the most famous player never to have secured the sport's ultimate prize. Now, he will have to take the Dolphins past Elway and the Broncos in Mile High Stadium on Saturday if he is to keep his hopes of winning the Super Bowl on home territory alive.

The Dolphins flirted with defeat against the Bills and with nine seconds left it seemed that Doug Flutie, the Buffalo quarterback, was on the verge of bringing the score level as he prepared to try to drive the Bills the final three yards into the Miami end zone. Then Flutie was sacked by Trace Armstrong, the Miami defensive end, the ball spilt from his hands and was recovered by Shane Burton to preserve Miami's 24-17 lead.

In the last of the four wild-card games, the Jacksonville Jaguars eased past the New England Patriots in Florida. Inspired by Fred Taylor, their rookie running back, who rushed for 162 yards in a 25-10 victory, the Jaguars will be a tough proposition for the New York Jets when they meet in New Jersey on Sunday, especially now that their quarterback, Mark Brunell, is back after injury.

PLAY-OFFS

SATURDAY
NFC: Atlanta v San Francisco
AFC: Denver v Miami

SUNDAY
NFC: Minnesota v Arizona
AFC: New York Jets v Jacksonville

RUGBY LEAGUE

Luyt's bid to count on Nines falls flat

By Christopher Irvine

BY CANCELLING the World Nines yesterday because of a lack of television coverage just hours after Great Britain named a strong squad for the tournament in Johannesburg next month, Louis Luyt, the former South African Rugby Football Union (Sarfu) president, has severely embarrassed his new friends in the rugby league community.

In a statement, the South African Rugby League (SARL) said: "Sky TV is unable to find a slot for the event in Australia, Britain or New Zealand at such short notice and this impacts significantly on sponsors. The organisers don't want the first year's tournament to be a financial disaster. Dr Luyt and Sky have given their commitment to the event in years two and three."

There was private unease but surprisingly little resistance from the Rugby League International Federation (RLIF) last month when Luyt, who kept his financial stake in Ellis Park when he was overthrown as Sarfu president amid allegations of corruption and racism within the organisation, offered to stage international fixtures. He was cautiously welcomed at the RLIF meeting in Sydney and secured a three-year deal to stage the Nines at Ellis Park and a one-off Test there in November between Great Britain and New Zealand. This must now be in doubt.

The Rugby Football League (RFL) was notified of the cancellation by a fax from Barry Haslam, the SARL chairman, after the announcement of the 14-man Great Britain party. Nine other countries were due to compete at the Nines, from February 4 to 6.

Neil Tunnicliffe, the RFL chief executive, understood the reasons for the cancellation but, privately, feels let down.

Sky Sports said in a statement: "Sky was first informed of the tournament on December 21. This clearly did not give time to schedule the event and the South African Rugby League was informed of this decision within 24 hours. At no point did Sky commit to screening the event."

Court of Appeal — Law Report Tuesday January 5 1999 — Court of Appeal

Guidelines no longer valid

Regina v Wellman (Leslie Edward)

Before Lord Justice Rose, Mr Justice Rougier and Mr Justice Johnson

[Judgment December 10]

When sentencing a defendant for an offence of indecent assault upon a child or young person the guidelines cited in R v Demel ([1997] 2 Cr App R (S)) were no longer valid.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in dismissing an appeal by Leslie Edward Wellman against a sentence of two years imprisonment with an order for extended supervision under section 44 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991 and registration under the Sex Offenders Act 1997 to apply for 10 years, imposed on July 13, 1998 at Middlesex Guildhall Crown Court by Judge Fabyan Evans.

Miss Helen McCormack, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant.

LORD JUSTICE ROSE, giving the judgment of the court, said that on the evening of March 22, 1997, the appellant at his flat had supplied his daughter and her schoolfriend aged 13 with alcohol.

The schoolfriend was sick twice and agreed to stay the night during which the appellant visited her room three times and indecently assaulted her. After the last incident, the schoolfriend climbed out of the bathroom window and ran home.

Their Lordships were asked to consider the case of *Demel*, where, on appeal, a sentence of two years imprisonment for indecent asault on a victim of 10 years was reduced to 18 months for one act, and in which also were cited authorities that the court said showed an established tariff of sentencing.

His Lordship referred the court to the case of *R v L (Indecent assault: Sentencing)* (*The Times* April 28, 1998) in which Lord Justice Henry analysed the authorities cited in *Demel* for tariff, with which he respectfully disagreed.

In any event, the penalties for indecent assault of girls under 13 and with a child had been increased by section 3(3) of the Sexual Offences Act 1985 and Crime (Sentencing) Act 1997.

Their Lordships agreed with the observations in *R v L* and as cases of indecent assault varied considerably, the range of possible sentences were wider than the aspects in *Demel*. In view also of the aggravating features involved in the present case, the sentence could not be regarded as excessive.

No duty without special link

Hamble Fisheries Ltd v L. Gardner and Sons Ltd

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Mummery and Lord Justice Tuckey

[Judgment December 9]

In the absence of a contract or of a special relationship of proximity giving rise to a voluntary assumption of responsibility for financial loss, there was no general duty in English law to take reasonable care to avoid inflicting financial loss on those whom it was reasonably foreseeable would suffer such loss.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing the appeal of the plaintiff, Hamble Fisheries Ltd, from the decision of Judge Hallgarten, QC, in Central London County Court on October 1, 1997 that L. Gardner and Sons Ltd, the defendant, owed no common law duty of care to the plaintiff.

The plaintiff sought damages for repairs to the engine of their vessel "Rebecca Jane" and for loss of profits. The design of the engine's pistons, which had been manufactured by an independent contractor, was defective and the engine was damaged.

No physical damage to person or property was caused and the plaintiff's claim was confined to financial loss. The manufacturers of the engine subsequently sold their business to the defendant. The plaintiffs had had no contractual relationship or commercial contact with the defendant or its predecessors in business.

Mr Michael Tugendhat, QC and Mr Jacob Dean for the appellants; Mr Steven Gee, QC and Mr David Cavender for the respondents.

LORD JUSTICE TUCKEY said that the plaintiffs submitted, inter alia, that the limitation of the duty of care in *Murphy v Brentwood DC* ([1991] 1 AC 398) to a duty to safeguard from physical damage was not a reason why the same limitation should be applied in cases where the defendant knew of the danger.

That principle could be derived by analogy from the principle in *Langridge v Levy* ((1837) 2 M & W 519) and was applied in similar circumstances by the Canadian Supreme Court in *Rivtow Marine Ltd v Washington* ((1973) 40 DLR 530).

It was clear that the court in *Rivtow* found that there was a duty by analogy to liability for a dangerous chattel.

In some of the earlier cases the court sought to distinguish between chattels which were inherently dangerous and chattels which were not of themselves dangerous.

However, in *Donoghue v Stevenson* ([1932] AC 562), Lord Atkin argued that the distinction was relevant to the degree of care that might be expected but was not the basis for any logical differentiation between the rules applicable to each category.

His Lordship did not think that there was any basis for putting failure to warn of a known danger into a category of its own. The distinction therefore which the court made in *Rivtow* was not a valid one under English law.

The central question in the present case was whether the defendants had assumed a responsibility to warn the plaintiffs. His Lordship thought not. The parties simply had no dealings with one another.

Lord Justice Mummery and Lord Justice Nourse delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Constant & Constant, Southwark; Addleshaw Booth & Co, Manchester.

Contract required VAT to be paid

Hostgilt Ltd v Megahart Ltd

Before Miss Heather Williamson, QC

[Judgment December 4]

A term in a contract stating that "sums payable ... for the supply of goods and services are exclusive of VAT chargeable on the payment" meant that in the event that value-added tax was chargeable, any such statement of price was to be construed in such a way that the price payable was the VAT exclusive price plus 17½ per cent.

Miss Heather Williamson, QC, sitting as a deputy Chancery Division judge so held when dismissing the appeal by the defendants, Megahart Ltd, from the decision of Chief Master Dyson on July 15, 1998 on a summons under Order 14A of the Rules of the Supreme Court that the defendants were liable to the plaintiff in the sum of £70,000, being the sum liable in respect of the VAT payable by the defendants as part of the price of a freehold property purchased pursuant to an option agreement between the defendants and the plaintiffs, Hostgilt Ltd, dated June 3, 1977.

Mr Conrad McDonnell for Hostgilt; Mr Hugh McKay for Megahart.

HER LADYSHIP said that Megahart had purchased a freehold property from Hostgilt under a contract which took the form of an option, intending to operate the property as a hotel. The summons under Order 14A concerned whether the price in the contract, £400,000, was inclusive of VAT.

At the time of the contract both parties appeared to have believed, independently, that the transaction was exempt from VAT, although it was later pointed out to Hostgilt by their accountant that since 1994, leases of commercial property for less than 21 years were a service upon which VAT was payable and that they would have to pay VAT equal to 7/47 of the purchase price.

Hostgilt sent Megahart a VAT invoice demanding a further £70,000. Megahart contended that the contract did not provide for it to pay VAT in addition to the £400,000 designated as the purchase price in the contract.

Clause 7 of the parties' option agreement provided: "Value-added tax: sums payable under this agreement for the supply of goods and services are exclusive of value added tax chargeable on the payment."

Mr McKay contended that clause 7 was merely a statement of fact and did not create an express obligation on the purchaser to pay VAT, for which the vendor was liable under section 1(3) of the Value Added Tax Act 1994.

The need for an express term was evidenced by conditions 1.4.1 and 1.4.2 of the Law Society's Standard Conditions of Sale (3rd Edition), under which the purchase price expressly stated that VAT at 17½ per cent was to be added to the contract price paid by the purchaser.

If there were no mention at all of VAT in the contract then the sums quoted would be the price paid by the purchaser and it would be for the vendor to sort out the VAT liability on his own.

Clause 7, although sloppily drafted, had to be given some meaning. The construction contended for by the defendants gave it no meaning at all. As the clause could not reasonably be construed as a warranty that VAT was not payable, it could have only one other effect, namely that the sums quoted were the sums net of VAT, which would therefore be an additional charge to the purchaser.

Solicitors: Howard Kennedy; Howletts.

Child of violent husband prevails

B v B (Occupation Order)

Before Lord Justice Butler-Sloss and Mr Justice Wall

[Reasons December 17]

In deciding whether to make an accommodation order under section 33 of the Family Law Act 1996, the fact that a violent husband had responsibility for a child from a previous relationship overrode the needs of his wife and their infant child who were being housed in bed and breakfast accommodation by the council pending the availability of permanent housing

The Court of Appeal so stated in giving its reasons for allowing an appeal brought by the husband against the decision of Judge William Barnett, QC, on November 10, 1998 at Croydon County Court to make an occupation order in favour of the wife and child born in October 1997 to the exclusion of the father and his child aged six.

Section 33 of the Family Law Act 1996 provides: "(6) In deciding whether to exercise its powers ... the court shall have regard to all the circumstances including (a) the housing needs and housing resources of each of the parties and of any relevant child...

"(7) If it appears to the court that the applicant or any relevant child is likely to suffer significant harm attributable to conduct of the respondent ... the court shall make the order unless it appears to it that - (a) the respondent or any relevant child is likely to suffer significant harm if the order is made; and (b) the harm likely to be suffered by the respondent or child in that event is as great as, or greater than, the harm attributable to conduct of the respondent which is likely to be suffered by the applicant or child if the order is not made."

Miss Leonora Smith for the husband; Mr Gregory Hopewell for the mother.

LORD JUSTICE BUTLER-SLOSS said that Mr and Mrs B were married in May 1996. Mr B had a son, MB, aged six from a previous relationship who became part of the new household.

In June 1996 Mr and Mrs B were given the tenancy of a two bedroom council house. In October 1997, their daughter YB was born.

Following violence by Mr B, the parties separated when Mrs B left the property in June 1998 taking YB with her but leaving MB.

The local authority rehoused Mrs B and YB in temporary bed and breakfast accommodation. Mrs B applied to the county court for an ex parte non-molestation order and for an occupation order against Mr B. Judge Barnett granted the orders.

Miss Smith had sought to persuade the judge that even on the facts found against Mr B, the effect on MB of an occupation order in favour of Mrs B was likely to cause MB significant harm. The judge, while describing the argument as attractive, felt unable to accede to it.

The judge's findings of violence against Mr B and his exclusion from the property under an occupation order would be likely to have the result that the local authority would treat him as intentionally homeless.

However, given the needs of Mrs B and YB, the local authority had a duty to rehouse Mrs B under sections 193 and 194 of the Housing Act 1996. The duty owed to Mr B was different. Although the local authority did not have a duty to provide accommodation for Mr B or MB, Mr B would be a person who, although intentionally homeless, none the less had priority need for accommodation, under section 189(1)(b) of the Housing Act 1996.

Applying the terms of section 33(7) to the facts of the case, the judge was plainly entitled to find that Mrs B and YB were likely to suffer significant harm attributable to Mr B's conduct if an occupation order was not made.

The judge thus had to make an occupation order unless Mr B or MB were likely to suffer significant harm if the order was made, and that the harm likely to be suffered by Mr B or MB was as great or greater than the harm likely to be suffered by Mrs B or YB, attributable to Mr B's conduct.

It seemed to their Lordships that the judge paid no attention to the fact that if an accommodation order was made, MB would not only have the disruption of leaving home, but would also have to leave his school.

While in no sense underestimating the difficulties and frustrations of living with and caring for a toddler in bed and breakfast accommodation, the essential security for a child of YB's age was being with her mother. Furthermore, Mrs B's residence in bed and breakfast accommodation was likely to be temporary.

Their Lordships wished to make it clear that Mr B had behaved towards his wife in a manner which the judge found to be disgraceful. He treated her with serious domestic violence. Such conduct was unacceptable.

Thus, were it not for the fact that he was caring for MB, and that MB had particular needs which outweighed those of YB, an accommodation order would undoubtedly have been made.

Solicitors: Joseph Hill & Co, Tottenham; De Soyza Fernando, Streatham.

Counting time spent in custody

Regina v Governor of Wandsworth Prison, Ex parte Sorhaindo

Before Lord Justice Simon Brown and Mr Justice Astill

[Judgment December 14]

Time spent in custody on remand for certain offences while also serving a sentence of imprisonment, did not count towards the serving of a sentence of imprisonment for those offences, even where the sentence for the earlier offence had already been reversed on appeal.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in dismissing an application for judicial review by Christopher Sorhaindo of the decision of the prison service dated July 27, 1998, that the time he had served on remand while he was at the same time serving a sentence for other offences was not relevant in calculating his release date.

Section 67 of the Criminal Justice Act 1967, as inserted and amended by section 49(2) of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, provides: "(1) The length of any sentence of imprisonment imposed on an offender by a court shall be treated as reduced by any relevant period...

"(1A) In subsection (1) above 'relevant period' means ... (b) any period during which he was in custody - (i) by reason only of having been committed to custody by an order of a court made in connection with any proceedings relating to that sentence or the offence for which it was passed or any proceedings from which those proceedings arose..."

Mr Peter Duffy, QC and Mr Rambert de Mello for the applicant; Miss Eleanor Grey for the respondent.

LORD JUSTICE SIMON BROWN said that in July 1996 the applicant was arrested for assaulting a police constable in the execution of his duty and for using threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour with intent to cause a person to believe that unlawful violence would be used against him (offences A). He was granted bail. In September 1997 he was arrested for three firearms offences (offences B) and remanded in custody.

On October 31, 1997 the applicant was convicted in the magistrates' court of offences A and sentenced to a total of four months imprisonment.

As a short-term prisoner he was entitled to be released on December 31, 1997, after serving half his sentence, although he continued to be detained in custody in respect of offences B.

In February 1998 his appeal against conviction of offences A was allowed by the crown court. In March 1998 he was convicted of offences B and sentenced to a total of 30 months imprisonment. A further seven days imprisonment was added as a result of prison adjudications.

The applicant contended that he was due for release on December 19, 1998, that being 15 months and seven days after he was remanded in custody. The respondents said that the date was February 19, 1999.

Mr Duffy submitted that there was nothing in section 67 of the Criminal Justice Act 1967 or other statutory provisions which prevented the respondent from giving the applicant credit for the time spent in custody between October 31, 1997 and December 31, 1997.

Miss Grey submitted that the sentences for the offences A were not rendered void when reversed on appeal. The sentences remained of legal effect and provided continuing lawful justification for the applicant's detention during the period.

In his Lordship's judgment, section 67(1A) unambiguously provided that periods spend in custody while also serving another sentence were not only spent in custody by reason of an order of a court made in connection with any proceedings relating to that sentence.

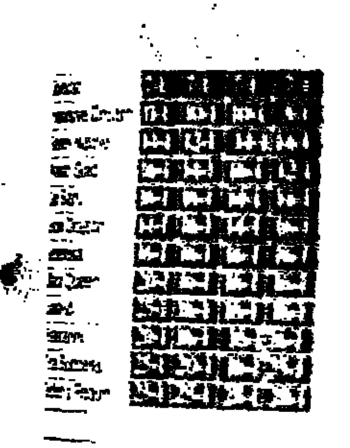
As his Lordship had said in *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Naughton* ([1997] 1 WLR 118, 126): "the word 'only' is introduced simply so as to exclude periods spent in custody while serving another sentence".

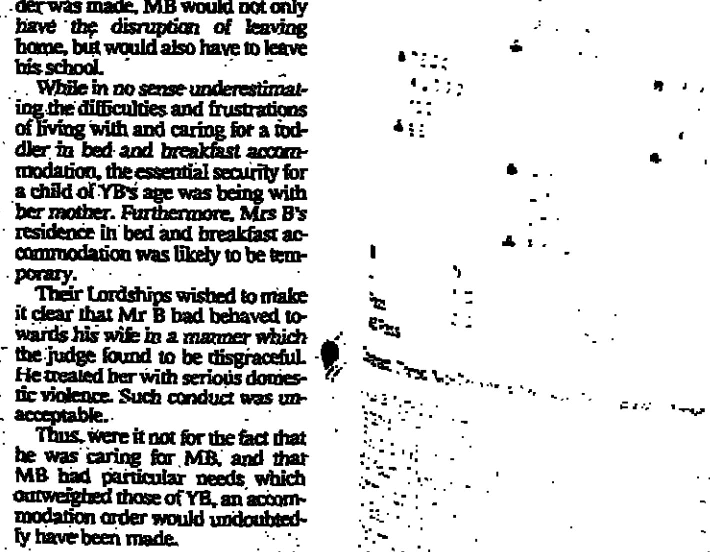
The court in *R v Governor of Brockhill Prison, Ex parte Evans* ([1997] 2 WLR 236) endorsed that view.

There was no need to distort the meaning of section 67(1A) for justice to be accomplished. The sentencing judge, no doubt assisted by counsel, should recognise the opportunity before him to remedy any possible grievances by adjusting the sentences for offences B accordingly.

Mr Justice Astill agreed.

Solicitors: Goodall Barnett James, Brighton; Treasury Solicitor.





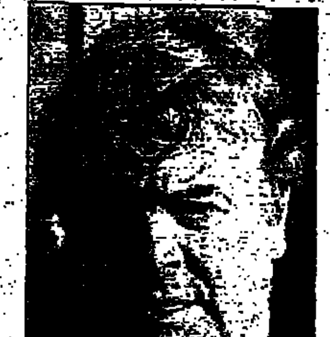
RACING: BROADSHEET AIMED FOR CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL START

Plans afoot to launch daily racing paper

By Richard Evans
Racing Correspondent

A NEW daily racing paper, called *The Racing Herald*, could be on the streets in time for the Cheltenham Festival after nine months of behind-the-scenes negotiations with potential financial backers.

The broadsheet, with sections devoted to racing, sports betting and greyhounds, would be aimed very much at the punter, and staffed by many of the journalists who worked on *The Sporting Life*, which closed last May after serving followers of the Turf for 139 years.


Lester: joining new team

Talks with three separate groups of would-be investors are at an advanced stage and have produced a verbal agreement. Lawyers and accountants are now poring over the fine detail and a decision is imminent. "We have reached a crucial stage," one insider disclosed yesterday.

Mike Gallemore, a former editor of *The Sporting Life*, is the driving force behind the project and would edit the title. A 70-strong editorial team is being lined up, including well-known racing journalists such as Geoff Lester, Tim Richards, George Ennor, Jon Freeman, Colin Fleetwood-Jones and Mike Cattermole.

The *Racing Post* has enjoyed a monopoly since it was sold by Sheikh Mohammed for £1 to Mirror Group, who promptly closed down the Life. Various plans to relaunch the Life as a sports paper have so far come to nothing.

Although there has been a concensus of thought that racing can only sustain one daily newspaper, economies in production costs have convinced those involved that a second publication is a viable proposition. The initial circulation target would be 20,000.

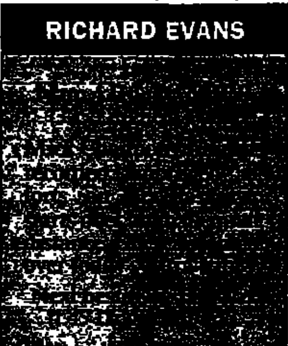
The chances of success would undoubtedly be boosted if *The Racing Herald* could gain a share of the betting shop market. Ironically, it was a disastrous "reader-friendly" redesign of the Life which cost it thousands of sales to the nation's 8,000 betting shops — and spelt the beginning of the end for the Queen Mother's favourite paper.

Significantly, the Herald would be aimed very much at the punter — including the burgeoning sports betting sector — rather than the inner machinations of the racing industry. "Unlike the Post, the Herald is *unlikely to devote the front* page to the latest thoughts of Peter Savill, the British Horseracing Board chairman," one source said. "It would cover the things that the industry needs to know, but be based on information for the punter."

If the project gets off the ground, the first copies of the Herald, costing £1, would be on sale during the week before the Cheltenham Festival to alert potential readers to its existence in time for the biggest National Hunt meeting of the year.

With entries for the Cheltenham Gold Cup and Queen Mother Champion Chase closing tomorrow, festival fever will soon begin to build up and a small, but significant, change is being made to one of the meeting's most popular races.

The Fulke Walwyn Kim Muir Chase, for amateur riders, and the William Hill National Hunt Chase are both run over an extended three


RICHARD EVANS

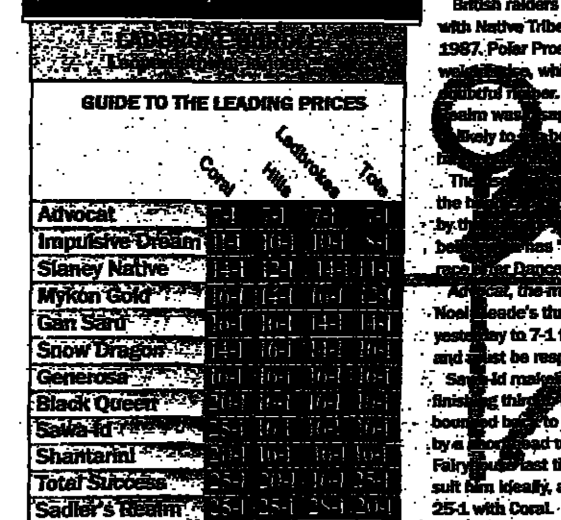
miles and tend to attract the same horses. In the past couple of seasons, highly rated horses such as Lo Stregone (147) and Papillon (143), which would normally have gone for the more valuable William Hill race, have remained in the Kim Muir — and therefore have given it a lopsided look.

The Cheltenham management considered a number of ways of getting round the problem, including changing the distance of one or both races or allowing conditional jockeys to ride in the Kim Muir, but have opted for restricting the amateur riders' race to horses rated 140 or below.

The change should mean the Kim Muir is more competitive, with fewer horses out of the handicap. "It is designed to strengthen both races," Edward Gillespie, managing director at Cheltenham, said.

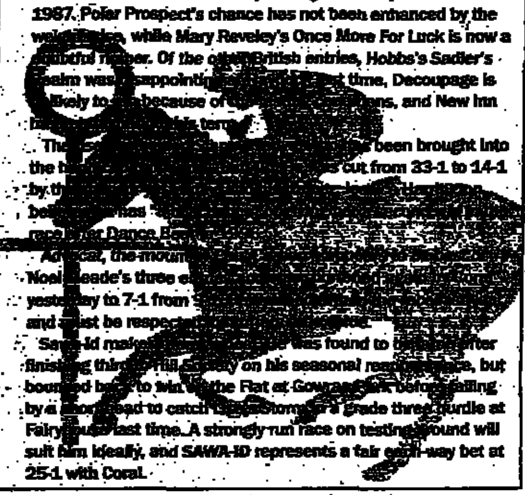
RACING AHEAD

Robert Wright suggests the best value in the ante-post market



GUIDE TO THE LEADING PRICES

	Coral	Hills	Ladbrokes	Tote
Advocat	7-1	7-1	7-1	7-1
Impulsive Dream	11-1	10-1	10-1	8-1
Slaney Native	14-1	12-1	14-1	11-1
Mykon Gold	16-1	14-1	16-1	12-1
Gan Saru	16-1	16-1	14-1	14-1
Snow Dragon	14-1	16-1	14-1	16-1
Generosa	16-1	16-1	16-1	16-1
Black Queen	20-1	14-1	16-1	18-1
Sawa-Id	25-1	16-1	16-1	20-1
Shantarini	20-1	16-1	16-1	16-1
Total Success	25-1	20-1	16-1	25-1
Sadler's Realm	25-1	25-1	25-1	20-1



WITH the top 11 horses in the original weights having been withdrawn at yesterday's five-day acceptance stage, the weights have gone up by 15lb leaving the Philip Hobbs-trained Polar Prospect to shoulder top weight of 11st 12lb.

British raiders do not have a good record in the Ladbroke, with Native Tribe, winner two years ago, the only success since 1987. Polar Prospect's chance has not been enhanced by the [illegible], while Mary Reveley's Once More For Luck is now a [illegible] Of the [illegible] British entries, Hobbs's Sadler's [illegible] was [illegible] time, Decoupage is [illegible] because of [illegible], and New Inn [illegible]

The [illegible] been brought into the [illegible] cut from 33-1 to 14-1 by [illegible]

Advocat, the [illegible] Noel Meade's three [illegible] yesterday to 7-1 from [illegible] and must be respected [illegible]

Sawa-Id [illegible] was found to [illegible] finishing third [illegible] on his seasonal reappearance, but bounced back to win on the Flat at Gowran Park before failing by a short head to catch [illegible] in a grade three hurdle at Fairyhouse last time. A strongly run race on testing ground will suit him ideally, and SAWA-ID represents a fair each-way bet at 25-1 with Coral.

Rain threat to Lingfield

THE turf meeting at Lingfield tomorrow is under threat from the weather. Andy Waitt, head *groundsman at the Surrey* course, said yesterday: "The track is very wet, but we could have raced today."

He added: "It all depends on the amount of rain we get between now and Wednesday, and there is more rain forecast. At the moment, there is no inspection planned."

The prospects are much brighter for Musselburgh, tomorrow's other scheduled National Hunt meeting. There are no problems with waterlogging, but two degrees of frost is forecast tonight and the stewards may be forced to hold an inspection.



HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Rockforce clears the last before winning the Langhorne Garden Hotel Maiden Chase at Folkestone yesterday

Saleel saves best behaviour for course

SALEEL, aggressive in his stable but totally genuine when he is running, made it two wins from three starts since he became part of Lucy Wadham's new Waterhall racing syndicate when he took the Northiam Novices' Hurdle at Folkestone yesterday.

She "was in the right place at the right time" when the Maktoum family were looking for a home for Saleel at the end of last season. "They did not want to send him to the sales because of the way he behaves in the box, feeling it was wrong to sell a horse with such a temperament, and so he came to us," she said. "He lives in a muzzle, which isn't taken off him until the last minute, and, though we are taking no chances, I think that he is getting a bit better."

Saleel's success was the first of two for promising amateur Richie Forristal, who went on to complete a double for himself and Gardie Grissell when First Instance landed the Ted Long Challenge Cup.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S TWO MEETINGS

Folkestone

Going: hurdles: heavy; chase: soft, heavy in places.

12.40 (2m 6f 110yd hdle) 1, **Simply** (Mr A Irvine, 12-1); 2, Dauphin Bleu (3-1); 3, Repeat Offer (7-2). Western Chief (4th) 5-2 fav. 6 ran. 1¾l, 10l. Miss Z Davison. Tote: £11.90; £13.00, £1.10. DF: £50.00. CSF: £43.74.

1.10 (3m 2f ch) 1, **Emerald Statement** (B Fenton, 2-1); 2, Ripanus (11-2); 3, Frenchy Malta (13-2). See Enough (4th) 13-8 fav. 6 ran. 5l, 1½l. D Grissell. Tote: £3.00; £2.20, £2.20. DF: £9.50. CSF: £12.60.

1.40 (2m 6f 110yd hdle) 1, **Saleel** (Mr R Forristal, 1-7 fav, **Richard Evans's nap**); 2, Polyphony (8-1); 3, Black Spring (18-1). 5 ran. NR: Bell Tex. 7l, 26l. Mrs L Wadham. Tote: £1.10; £1.10, £1.30. DF: £1.60. CSF: £2.03.

2.10 (2m ch) 1, **Rockforce** (J Tizzard, 8-11 fav); 2, Brassis Hill (14-1); 3, Emperor's Magic (8-1). 7 ran. NR: Gallant Lord, Smart Guy. Dist, 1½l. P Nicholls. Tote: £1.90; £1.70, £2.90. DF: £13.60. CSF: £10.76.

2.40 (2m 1f 110yd hdle) 1, **Inclination** (A Maguire, 6-1); 2, Brancepeth Belle (11-4 fav); 3, Glacial Missile (10-1). 7 ran. Nk, 9l. Mrs L Jewell. Tote: £8.00; £2.60, £1.30. DF: £12.80. CSF: £20.86.

3.10 (2m 5f ch) 1, **First Instance** (Mr R Forristal, 11-4 fav, **Thunderer's nap**); 2, Jason's Boy (7-2); 3, Can't Say (10-1). 6 ran. 9l, 15l. D Grissell. Tote: £3.40; £1.60, £2.40. DF: £4.70. CSF: £11.66.

3.40 (2m 1f 110yd hdle) 1, **Topanga** (R Studholme, 5-1); 2, Distant Storm (9-4); 3, Johdamar (15-8 fav). 4 ran. 1½l, dist. M Bradstock. Tote: £3.90. DF: £4.00. CSF: £14.63.

Placepot: £133.70.
Quadpot: £3.80.

Southwell

Going: standard

12.30 (7f) 1, **First Frame** (N Pollard, 12-1); 2, Royal Cascade (4-1); 3, Flame Tower (9-1). Most Respectful (4th) 3-1 fav. 13 ran. NR: Tailwand. 2½l, sh. D Shaw. Tote: £15.40; £6.30, £1.50, £2.80. DF: £55.90. CSF: £52.63.

1.00 (1m 3f) 1, **Las Jadeed** (N Pollard, 8-1); 2, Blue Hopper (16-1); 3, Santarene (8-1). Nocturne (4th) 1-2 fav. 8 ran. 3l, 6l. M Polglase. Tote: £8.00; £2.10, £2.80, £1.70. DF: £25.80. CSF: £102.53.

1.30 (7f) 1, **C-Harry** (R Cochrane, 11-4 jt-fav); 2, Mai Tai (20-1); 3, Kosevo (3-1). Desert Invader (6th) 11-4 jt-fav. 13 ran. ½l, 7l. R Hollinshead. Tote: £4.00; £1.40, £5.80, £1.70. DF: £51.90. CSF: £60.50.

2.00 (6f) 1, **Inflash** (S Whitworth, 15-2); 2, General Klaire (9-2 fav); 3, Dahlidya (5-1). 15 ran. 1¼l, 1l. D Haydn Jones. Tote: £6.40; £2.50, £2.50, £2.40. DF: £26.20. CSF: £35.56. Tricast: £179.57.

2.30 (2m) 1, **Whitley Grange Boy** (C Lowther, 2-1 fav); 2, Pipe Music (10-1); 3, Chabrol (16-1). 10 ran. 1½l, 5l. J Eyre. Tote: £3.00; £1.70, £2.10, £3.50. DF: £15.60. Trifecta: £570.40. CSF: £22.21. Tricast: £238.15.

3.00 (1m) 1, **Golden Syrup** (J Quinn, 11-4); 2, Nathan's Hero (2-1 fav); 3, Cyro (5-1). 7 ran. Nk, 1½l. P Howling. Tote: £4.60; £2.40, £1.10. DF: £4.30. CSF: £7.61.

3.30 (1m) 1, **Raywere Boy** (J Quinn, 6-1); 2, Love Blues (11-8 fav); 3, Stale Wind (11-1). 7 ran. 2l, 12l. D Shaw. Tote: £10.80; £3.40, £1.10. DF: £13.10. CSF: £14.27.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £9,728.02 carried forward to Lingfield today).
Placepot: £467.50. **Quadpot:** £9.20.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

12.45 Sharp Scotch
1.15 Maradi
1.45 Speedy Classic
2.15 Pisces Lad
2.45 HIGH NOON (nap)
3.15 L'Estable Fleurie
3.45 Annie Apple

Timekeeper's top rating: 1.15 EVEZIO RUFO.

GOING: STANDARD — TOTE JACKPOT MEETING
DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST — SIS

12.45 BARRY DENNIS HANDICAP (Div I: £1,767: 1m) (12 runners)

101	(4)	46/40-	FESTIVAL FLYER 84 (Mrs J Rool) Miss G Kelleway 4-10-0	W Ryan	55
102	(1)	03133-	SHARP SCOTCH 18 (D,S) (J Devaney) D Carroll 6-9-12	J A Heffernan	79
103	(5)	10000-	KAFIL 17 (CD) (Exors late M Pascall) J Bridger 5-9-5	G Bardwell	78
104	(10)	60420-	OVER KEEN 10 (B) (Miss J Chaffey) Miss G Kelleway 5-9-3	S Whitworth	46
105	(9)	03600-	BATAAN 41 (D,G) A Vanderhaeghen (Bel) 8-8-13	A Nicholls (5)	–
106	(3)	32020-	SAND HAWK 34 (J Frewell) D Shaw 4-8-13	A Clark	68
107	(12)	04040-	HAWAII STORM 27 (CD,S) (Ms R Wheeler) D French Davis 11-8-9	N Pollard (5)	73
108	(2)	40004-	FAR-SO-LA 6 (F) (Mrs L Jewell) Mrs L Jewell 4-8-6	R Price	70
109	(11)	41003-	DELIGHT OF DAWN 10 (B,D,F,G,S) (Dexnet Ltd) E Wheeler 7-8-4	S Carson (7)	82
110	(7)	34540-	HOMESTEAD 41 (D,F,G) (G Shoemark) R Hannon 5-8-4	J Quinn	57
111	(6)	20000-	CONCER ARALL 43 (V) (E Lloyd) P Evans 5-8-1	Martin Dwyer	68
112	(8)	06000-	ATTARIKH 110 (T Hulsam) Mrs A King 6-7-12	S Righton (7)	73

BETTING: 5-2 Sharp Scotch, 5-1 Sand Hawk, 6-1 Over Keen, 7-1 Festival Flyer, Delight Of Dawn, 10-1 Kafil, Bataan, 12-1 others.

1998: SQUARE MILE MISS 5-7-12 N Carlisle (6-1) N Berry 9 ran

Festival Flyer 5¼l 7th of 19 to Iron Mountain in handicap at Leicester (1m 1f 218yd, good to soft); previously 9¼l 4th of 7 to Peridot in 3yo maiden stakes at Windsor (1m 2f 7yd, good). Sharp Scotch 8¼l 3rd of 12 to Far Cry in amateur handicap at Southwell (1m 4f, AW, fibresand), previously 5l 3rd of 12 to Tropical Beach in handicap at Wolverhampton (1m 1f 79yd, AW, fibresand). Kafil 9½l 10th of 12 to Smart Kid in handicap at Lingfield (1m, AW, equitrack), previously 21l 10th of 14 to Kings Arrow in apprentice stakes at Lingfield (1m 2f, AW, equitrack). Over Keen 15l 7th of 11 to Incepta in maiden stakes at Wolverhampton (1m 100yd, AW, fibresand), previously 1¼l 2nd of 12 to Raspberry Sauce in fillies handicap at Lingfield (1m, AW, equitrack). Bataan 12l 8th of 14 to Byzantium in handicap at Lingfield (1m 2f, AW, equitrack) with Homestead (2lb worse off) 23l 10th. Sand Hawk 9l 9th of 12 to Jay-Owe-Two in handicap at Wolverhampton (1m 100yd, AW, fibresand); previously 2l 2nd of 16 to Holy Smoke in handicap at Southwell (1m, AW, fibresand) with Concer Arall (9lb better off) 27l 13th. Hawaii Storm 9¼l 8th of 13 to Ivor's Deed in selling stakes at Lingfield (7f, AW, equitrack); previously 6¼l 4th of 12 to Smart Kid in claiming stakes at Lingfield (1m, AW, equitrack). Far-So-La 30l last of 4 to Castles Burning in stakes at Lingfield (1m 2f, AW, equitrack), previously 12l 13th of 16 to Motakessa in handicap at Southwell (7f, AW, fibresand). Delight Of Dawn 2½l 3rd of 13 to H5 Mujtahid in handicap at Wolverhampton (1m 100yd, AW, fibresand); previously 11l 8th of 16 to Dekelsmary in handicap at Southwell (7f, AW, fibresand). Attarikh 6¼l 10th of 20 to Dona Filipa in handicap at Yarmouth (6f 3yo, good to soft), previously 21l 11th of 16 to Rainbow Rain in handicap at Lingfield (7f, AW, equitrack).

OVER KEEN ran well here on her penultimate start and should go close for resident trainer Gay Kelleway

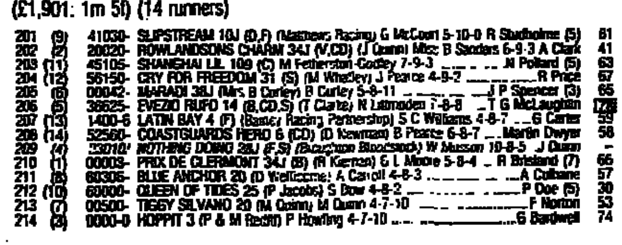
1.15 LINGFIELD PARK EXHIBITION HALL SELLING HANDICAP (£1,901: 1m 5f) (14 runners)

201	(9)	41030-	SLIPSTREAM 10J (D,F) (Matthews Racing) G McCourt 5-10-0	R Studholme (5)	61
202	(2)	20020-	ROWLANDSONS CHARM 34J (V,CD) (J Quinn) Miss B Sanders 6-9-3	A Clark	41
203	(11)	45105-	SHANGHAI LIL 109 (C) M Fetherston-Godley 7-9-3	N Pollard (5)	63
204	(12)	56150-	CRY FOR FREEDOM 31 (S) (M Whatley) J Pearce 4-9-2	R Price	67
205	(6)	00042-	MARADI 38J (Mrs B Curley) B Curley 5-8-11	J P Spencer (3)	65
206	(5)	38625-	EVEZIO RUFO 14 (B,CD,S) (T Clarke) N Littmoden 7-8-8	T G McLaughlin	78
207	(13)	1400-6	LATIN BAY 4 (F) (Bailey Racing Partnership) S C Williams 4-8-7	G Carter	59
208	(14)	52560-	COASTGUARDS HERO 6 (CD) (D Newman) B Pearce 6-8-7	Martin Dwyer	58
209	(4)	23010/	NOTHING DOING 28J (F,S) (Braughton Bloodstock) W Musson 10-8-5	J Quinn	–
210	(1)	00003-	PRIX DE CLERMONT 34J (B) (R Kiernan) G L Moore 5-8-4	R Brisland (7)	66
211	(8)	60305-	BLUE ANCHOR 20 (D Wellicome) A Carroll 4-8-3	A Culhane	57
212	(10)	60000-	QUEEN OF TIDES 25 (P Jacobs) S Dow 4-8-2	P Doe (5)	30
213	(7)	00500-	TIGGY SILVANO 20 (M Quinn) M Quinn 4-7-10	F Norton	53
214	(3)	0000-0	HOPPIT 3 (P & M Redin) P Howling 4-7-10	G Bardwell	74

Long handicap: Tiggy Silvano 7-9, Hoppit 7-3.

BETTING: 9-2 Maradi, 11-2 Prix De Clermont, 6-1 Evezio Rufo, 7-1 Slipstream, Blue Anchor, 8-1 Shanghai Lil, 10-1 Rowlandsons Charm, Cry For Freedom, 12-1 others.

1998: ENGLISH INVADER 7-10-0 S Sanders (4-1) C Dwyer 10 ran



Slipstream 30l 7th of 8 to High Jinks in handicap at Warwick (1m 7f, good), previously 5¼l 3rd of 6 to Aldwych Arrow in handicap at Musselburgh (1m 6f, soft). Rowlandsons Charm beaten a distance 17th of 20 to Premier League in selling handicap at Windsor (1m 3f 135yd, good), previously 5l 2nd of 11 to Coastguards Hero (7lb worse off) in selling handicap at Lingfield (1m 5f, AW, equitrack). Shanghai Lil 6¼l 5th of 21 to Arctic Fancy in ladies handicap at Newbury (1m 4f 5yd, good), previously 46l last of 12 to Hawksbill Henry in handicap at Lingfield (1m 2f, AW, equitrack). Cry For Freedom 32l 9th of 10 to Jazaab in claiming stakes at Wolverhampton (1m 6f 166yd, AW, fibresand); previously 11l 5th of 12 to Swyer in handicap at Wolverhampton (1m 4f, AW, fibresand). Maradi 1½l 2nd of 17 to Badrinath in selling handicap at Redcar (1m 2f, good to firm) with Cry For Freedom (3lb worse off) 9¼l 6th; previously 7¼l 4th of 14 to Cryptic Lady in handicap at Roscommon (1m 4f, good to soft). Evezio Rufo 14l 5th of 9 to Kinta's Star in handicap at Southwell (1m 4f, AW, fibresand); previously 9l 2nd of 9 to Noufari in selling stakes at Wolverhampton (1m 6f 166yd, AW, fibresand). Latin Bay 13l 6th of 14 to Sleave Silk in handicap at Lingfield (1m 4f, AW, standard), previously 21l 9th of 20 to Sammy's Shuffle in 3yo handicap at Brighton (1m 1f 209yd, good). Prix De Clermont 8¼l 3rd of 11 to Noukari in amateur handicap at Southwell (1m 4f, AW, fibresand), previously 31l 9th of 18 to Maroza in handicap at Lingfield (1m 4f, AW, equitrack). Blue Anchor 19l 6th of 8 to Pedersons Mission in handicap at Wolverhampton (1m 6f 166yd, AW, fibresand) with Tiggy Silvano (4lb better off) 30l 7th. Queen Of Tides 10l 7th of 12 to Wazzal in handicap at Lingfield (1m 5f, AW, equitrack) with Tiggy Silvano (levels) 14l 9th.

Course-and-distance winner EVEZIO RUFO has sound claims at the weights in an open contest

1.45 TRAFALGAR CLAIMING STAKES (£2,608: 6f) (7 runners)

301	(2)	01010-	SPEEDY CLASSIC 15 (CD,F) (Faccets) M Heaton-Ellis 10-9-11	A Clark	76
302	(4)	50500-	BEST OF OUR DAYS 122 (G) A Vanderhaeghen (Bel) 4-9-10	A Nicholls (5)	76
303	(5)	11036-	KRYSTAL MAX 15 (CD,F) (Caldeld Nurseries) T Barron 6-9-10	Kimberley Hart (5)	85
304	(7)	50000-	CAMEO 7 (Park Farm Racing) M Channon 4-9-7	P Cleary (7)	73
305	(3)	4352-3	FRIENDLY BRAVE 3 (C,D,F,S) (Tecsus Fapd) Miss G Kelleway 9-9-6	Dane O'Neill	76
306	(1)	00006-	ENGLISH LADY 42 (B) (English Lady Classics Ltd) M Haynes 4-9-1	R Cochrane	85
307	(6)	00300-	HEAVENLY MISS 84 (C,D,F) (T Mitchell) J Bridger 5-8-13	S Whitworth	80

BETTING: 11-8 Speedy Classic, 7-4 Krystal Max, 13-2 Friendly Brave, 12-1 Best Of Our Days, 14-1 Cameo, 16-1 Heavenly Miss, 25-1 English Lady

1998: DOUBLE OSCAR 5-9-13 Alex Greaves (11-4) D Nicholls 9 ran

Best Of Our Days 23l last of 12 to Diamond Drill in 3yo handicap at Wolverhampton (7f, AW, fibresand), previously 4¼l 7th of 13 to Critical Air in 3yo handicap at Musselburgh (7f 30yd, good). Krystal Max 4¼l 6th of 14 to Primo Lara in handicap at Lingfield (6f, AW, equitrack) with Speedy Classic (8lb better off) 10l last. Cameo 5¼l 7th of 10 to Mutarab in handicap at Lingfield (5f, AW, equitrack); previously 12l 7th of 9 to Alpen Wolf in 3yo handicap at Brighton (5f 213yd, good to firm). Friendly Brave 2½l 3rd of 13 to Acid Test in handicap at Lingfield (6f, AW, standard), previously ¾l 2nd of 10 to Tear White in handicap at Lingfield (5f, AW, equitrack). English Lady 15l 6th of 9 to Apple in 3yo maiden stakes at Lingfield (6f, AW, equitrack), previously 7¼l 8th of 10 to Tom Tun in handicap at Lingfield (5f, AW, equitrack). Heavenly Miss 23l 18th of 20 to Rolley Spibey in selling handicap at Leicester (7f 9yd, good to soft), previously 11l 9th of 11 to Epsom Cyclone in handicap at Salisbury (6f, soft).

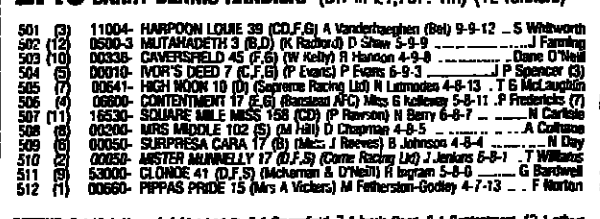
FRIENDLY BRAVE, third here on Saturday, is proving consistent and can gain a deserved success

2.15 VICTORY MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,087: 5f) (8 runners)

401	(7)	062-	BARR BEACON 15 (B) (Thorpe Vernon) T Mills 9-0	L Carter	47
402	(4)	52360-	PISCES LAD 41 (J Falvey & G Williamson) S Dow 9-0	P Doe (5)	68
403	(5)	05005-	RAINBOW ROMEO 6 (E Perry) J R Poulton 9-0	G Faulkner (3)	49
404	(1)		TAWN AGAIN (B Elsworth) T Barron 9-0	O Pears	–
405	(8)	00-	VENIKA VITESSE 18 (K Shaw) T Barron 9-0	Kimberley Hart (5)	14
406	(2)	00-	DIVA D'ARGENT 46 (D Lancaster-Smith) W Muir 8-9	Martin Dwyer	18
407	(3)	2-	LA PIAZZA 6 (Jolly Farmers Racing) W Haggas 8-9	Dane O'Neill	61
408	(6)	00006-	RIDDLE 15 (B) (P Evans) P Evans 8-9	T G McLaughlin	76

BETTING: 2-1 La Piazza, 3-1 Barr Beacon, 4-1 Pisces Lad, 6-1 Riddle, 10-1 Rainbow Romeo, Tawn Again, 16-1 others.

1998: BEST OF OUR DAYS 9-0 Dean McKeown (5-4 fav) C Thornton 7 ran



Barr Beacon 1½l 2nd of 7 to Kayo Gee in 2yo maiden auction stakes at Lingfield (5f, AW, equitrack) with Riddle (levels) 5¼l 6th. Pisces Lad 14l 10th of 14 to Bartholomew in 2yo handicap at Lingfield (6f, AW, equitrack). Rainbow Romeo 5l 5th of 6 to Jack Goodman in 2yo handicap at Lingfield (7f, AW, equitrack). Venika Vitesse 22l 10th of 16 to Rich Ballerina in 2yo maiden stakes at Southwell (7f, AW, fibresand). Diva D'Argent 21l 11th of 16 to Carrigenvourbeath in 2yo selling stakes at Southwell (6f, AW, fibresand). La Piazza 6l 2nd of 6 to Prince Prospect in 2yo maiden stakes at Lingfield (6f, AW, equitrack).

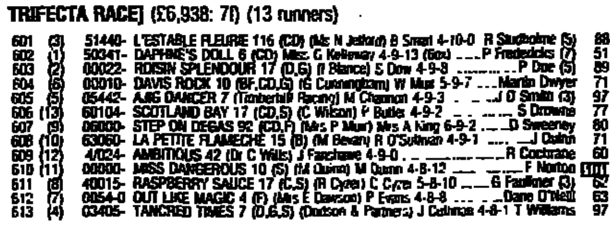
LA PIAZZA showed some ability on her racecourse bow last week and should do better for that experience

2.45 BARRY DENNIS HANDICAP (Div II: £1,757: 1m) (12 runners)

501	(3)	11004-	HARPOON LOUIE 39 (CD,F,G) A Vanderhaeghen (Bel) 9-9-12	S Whitworth	–
502	(12)	0500-3	MUTAHADETH 3 (B,D) (K Radford) D Shaw 5-9-9	J Fanning	71
503	(10)	00336-	CAVERSFIELD 45 (F,G) (W Kelly) R Hannon 4-9-8	Dane O'Neill	76
504	(5)	00010-	IVOR'S DEED 7 (C,F,G) (P Evans) P Evans 6-9-3	J P Spencer (3)	69
505	(7)	00641-	HIGH NOON 10 (D) (Supreme Racing Ltd) N Littmoden 4-8-13	T G McLaughlin	79
506	(4)	06600-	CONTENTMENT 17 (E,G) (Banstead AFC) Miss G Kelleway 5-8-11	P Fredericks (7)	82
507	(11)	16530-	SQUARE MILE MISS 158 (CD) (P Rawson) N Berry 6-8-7	N Carlisle	71
508	(8)	00200-	MRS MIDDLE 102 (S) (M Hill) D Chapman 4-8-5	A Culhane	56
509	(6)	00050-	SURPRESA CARA 17 (B) (Miss J Reeves) B Johnson 4-8-4	N Day	69
510	(2)	00050-	MISTER MUNNELLY 17 (D,F,S) (Come Racing Ltd) J Jenkins 6-8-1	T Williams	60
511	(9)	53000-	CLONOE 41 (D,F,S) (Mcharnan & O'Neill) R Ingram 5-8-0	G Bardwell	84
512	(1)	00660-	PIPPAS PRIDE 15 (Mrs A Vickers) M Fetherston-Godley 4-7-13	F Norton	55

BETTING: 3-1 High Noon, 5-1 Mutahadeth, 6-1 Caversfield, 7-1 Ivor's Deed, 8-1 Contentment, 12-1 others.

1998: MOGIN 5-8-2 J Quinn (4-1) T Naughton 8 ran



Harpoon Louie 8¼l 4th of 12 to Waikiki Beach in selling stakes at Lingfield (1m 2f, AW, equitrack). Mutahadeth 8l 3rd of 16 to Holy Smoke in amateur handicap at Southwell (1m, AW, standard). Caversfield 9¼l 6th of 11 to Sharp Scotch in handicap at Wolverhampton (1m 1f 79yd, AW, fibresand). Ivor's Deed 7l 7th of 9 to Best Quest in handicap at Lingfield (7f, AW, equitrack), previously beat Adirpour neck in 13-runner selling stakes at Lingfield (7f, AW, equitrack) with Surpresa Cara (2lb better off) 3l 5th. High Noon beat Night Auction 2l in 13-runner handicap at Wolverhampton (1m 100yd, AW, fibresand). Contentment 19l 7th of 14 to Castles Burning in handicap at Lingfield (1m 2f, AW, equitrack).

Last-time-out winner HIGH NOON is one of few in any sort of form at present

3.15 CORAL FILLIES [SHOWCASE HANDICAP AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE] (£6,938: 7f) (13 runners)

601	(3)	51440-	L'ESTABLE FLEURIE 116 (CD) (Ms N Jetford) B Smart 4-10-0	R Studholme (5)	88
602	(1)	50341-	DAPHNE'S DOLL 6 (CD) Miss G Kelleway 4-9-13 (6ex)	P Fredericks (7)	51
603	(2)	00022-	ROISIN SPLENDOUR 17 (D,G) (I Blance) S Dow 4-9-8	P Doe (5)	89
604	(6)	00010-	DAVIS ROCK 10 (BF,CD,G) (G Cunningham) W Muir 5-9-7	Martin Dwyer	71
605	(5)	05442-	AJIG DANCER 7 (Timberhill Racing) M Channon 4-9-3	J D Smith (3)	97
606	(13)	60104-	SCOTLAND BAY 17 (CD,S) (C Wilson) P Butler 4-9-2	S Drowne	77
607	(9)	06000-	STEP ON DEGAS 92 (CD,F) (Mrs P Muir) Mrs A King 6-9-2	D Sweeney	80
608	(10)	63060-	LA PETITE FLAMECHE 15 (B) (M Bevan) R O'Sullivan 4-9-1	J Quinn	71
609	(12)	4/024-	AMBITIOUS 42 (Dr C Wills) J Fanshawe 4-9-0	R Cochrane	60
610	(11)	00000-	MISS DANGEROUS 10 (S) (M Quinn) M Quinn 4-8-12	F Norton	101
611	(8)	40015-	RASPBERRY SAUCE 17 (C,S) (R Cyzer) C Cyzer 5-8-10	G Faulkner (3)	62
612	(7)	0054-0	OUT LIKE MAGIC 4 (F) (Mrs E Dawson) P Evans 4-8-8	Dane O'Neill	63
613	(4)	03405-	TANCRED TIMES 7 (D,G,S) (Dodson & Partners) J Culhane 4-8-1	T Williams	97

BETTING: 4-1 Roisin Splendour, 6-1 Ajig Dancer, Raspberry Sauce, 7-1 Davis Rock, Scotland Bay, 8-1 Daphne's Doll, 10-1 L'Estable Fleurie, Ambitious, 12-1 others.

1998: DAVIS ROCK 4-9-12 S Sanders (15-2) W Muir 9 ran

L'Estable Fleurie 22l 18th of 19 to Desert Valentine in handicap at Goodwood (1m, good to soft). Daphne's Doll beat Pearly Queen 14l in 6-runner 3yo maiden stakes at Lingfield (7f, AW, equitrack). Roisin Splendour 2½l 2nd of 12 to Smart Kid in handicap at Lingfield (1m, AW, equitrack) with Raspberry Sauce (2lb better off) 5½l 5th. Davis Rock 9¼l 8th of 10 to Make's Double in handicap at Wolverhampton (6f, AW, fibresand) with Miss Dangerous (5lb better off) 11l 9th. Ajig Dancer 1¼l 2nd of 10 to Mutarab in handicap at Lingfield (5f, AW, equitrack) with Tancred Times (levels) 4l 5th. Scotland Bay 3¼l 4th of 12 to Bold Oriental in handicap at Lingfield (1m, AW, equitrack). Step On Degas 4½l 7th of 18 to Gadge in stakes at Brighton (6f 209yd, good). Ambitious 8½l 4th of 9 to Apple in 3yo maiden stakes at Lingfield (6f, AW, equitrack). Out Like Magic 8½l 9th of 12 to John Bowdler Music in handicap at Lingfield (6f, AW, standard), previously 4½l 4th of 12 to Raspberry Sauce (5lb worse off) in fillies handicap at Lingfield (1m, AW, equitrack).

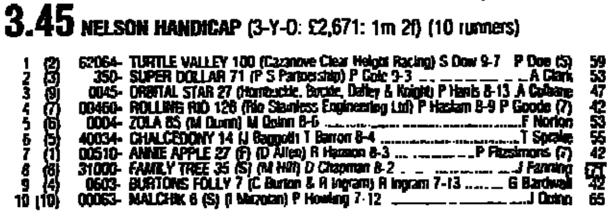
ROISIN SPLENDOUR is taken to make the most of an advantageous draw

3.45 NELSON HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,671: 1m 2f) (10 runners)

1	(2)	62064-	TURTLE VALLEY 100 (Cazanove Clear Height Racing) S Dow 9-7	P Doe (5)	59
2	(3)	350-	SUPER DOLLAR 71 (P S Partnership) P Cole 9-3	A Clark	53
3	(9)	0045-	ORBITAL STAR 27 (Hornbuckle, Brodie, Dailey & Knight) P Harris 8-13	A Culhane	47
4	(7)	00460-	ROLLING RIO 126 (Rio Stainless Engineering Ltd) P Haslam 8-9	P Goode (7)	42
5	(6)	0004-	ZOLA 85 (M Quinn) M Quinn 8-6	F Norton	53
6	(5)	40034-	CHALCEDONY 14 (J Baggott) T Barron 8-4	T Sprake	56
7	(1)	00510-	ANNIE APPLE 27 (F) (D Allen) R Hannon 8-3	P Fitzsimons (7)	42
8	(8)	31000-	FAMILY TREE 35 (S) (M Hill) D Chapman 8-2	J Fanning	77
9	(4)	0603-	BURTONS FOLLY 7 (C Burton & R Ingram) R Ingram 7-13	G Bardwell	42
10	(10)	00063-	MALCHIK 6 (S) (I Marzolan) P Howling 7-12	J Quinn	65

BETTING: 3-1 Chalcedony, 6-1 Turtle Valley, Malchik, 7-1 Super Dollar, Rolling Rio, Burtons Folly, 8-1 others.

1998: MISABA 9-0 P P Murphy (5-1) J S Moore 7 ran



Turtle Valley 9¼l 4th of 6 to Autocrat in handicap at Musselburgh (7f 30yd, good). Super Dollar 11l 7th of 10 to Bound For Pleasure in maiden stakes at Lingfield (7f, heavy), previously 7¼l 5th of 18 to Little Rock in maiden stakes at Leicester (7f 9yd, good to soft) with Orbital Star (4lb better off) 11l 11th. Orbital Star 7¼l 5th of 12 to Love Diamonds in handicap at Lingfield (1m, AW, equitrack) with Annie Apple (2lb better off) 12l 7th. Rolling Rio 13l 11th of 16 to Ticklish in handicap at Ripon (6f, soft). Zola 9½l 4th of 18 to Lucky Feather in selling stakes at Leicester (1m 1f 218yd, good to soft). Chalcedony ½l 4th of 12 to Top Fit in handicap at Southwell (1m, AW, fibresand). Burtons Folly 9l 3rd of 7 to Questuary in selling stakes at Lingfield (1m, AW, equitrack). Malchik 2½l 3rd of 6 to Jack Goodman in handicap at Lingfield (7f, AW, equitrack).

ZOLA has a small race in him and gets a tentative vote on his all-weather debut

SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: T Barron, 7 winners from 25 runners, 28.0%; P Haslam, 22 from 105, 21.0%; J Fanshawe, 4 from 21, 19.0%; D Chapman, 17 from 96, 17.7%; P Harris, 13 from 82, 15.9%.

JOCKEYS: Kimberley Hart, 5 winners from 12 rides, 41.7%; P Fredericks, 5 from 30, 16.7%; W Ryan, 41 from 245, 16.7%; N Pollard, 8 from 49, 16.3%; R Cochrane, 52 from 323, 16.1%.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

This difficult defence occurred in the 1998 Premier League.

Dealer North — N-S game — IMPs

North: ♠ 10 4 ♡ A ◇ A Q 5 4 ♣ J 9 7 4 3 2
West: ♠ 7 6 3 2 ♡ K J 8 3 2 ◇ 10 2 ♣ 6 5
East: ♠ A K 8 5 ♡ 6 5 4 ◇ K 9 6 3 ♣ 10 8
South: ♠ Q J 9 ♡ Q 10 9 7 ◇ J 8 7 ♣ A K Q

W	N	E	S
–	1C	Pass	1H
Pass	2C	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Contract: Three No-Trumps by South. Lead: three of hearts.

This was a typical auction. At one table Tony Forrester got off to a good start when he led a heart. Declarer won in dummy and played a spade. East took his king and returned the six of hearts to declarer's ten. If declarer has something like:

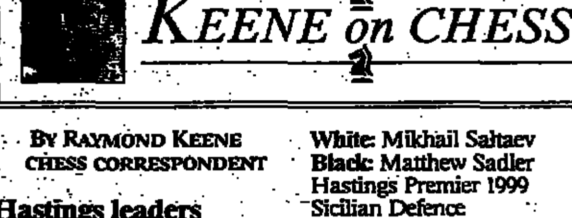
♠QJ98 ♡Q1097 ◇KJ3 ♣A10

the winning play is to duck the heart. That gives declarer seven tricks (two hearts, four diamonds and a club), but when he tries to set up his last two tricks in spades, East can win and play his remaining heart to enable the defence to take three tricks there. However, as the cards lay, after Forrester ducked the second heart declarer had nine tricks. The winning defence is for West to take the second heart and play a diamond.

At the other tables, West led a spade. East won and switched to a heart, took the next spade and played another heart. Now although declarer appears to have enough tricks, if West wins the second heart and plays a diamond, that gives declarer transportation problems – with the club blockage declarer needs the ace of diamonds to get to dummy's clubs. However, at no table did West find the winning defence of playing a diamond after the second *round of hearts*. That club suit looks deceptively unmenacing, but it is a sleeping alligator.

nThe Macallan International Bridge Pairs Championship 1999 will be played at The White House Hotel, Albany Street, London NW1 from Wednesday January 20th to Friday 22nd. Tickets and information from The Macallan Box Office, 31 Queens Road, Mortlake, London SW14 8PH. Tel: 0181-878 5844.

KEENE on CHESS



By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Hastings leaders

As the mid-way stage is passed at Hastings, Ivan Sokolov and Matthew Sadler have strengthened their grip on the leading positions. Sokolov has defeated Ruslan Ponomariov while Matthew Sadler won against Mikhail Saltaev. British grandmaster John Emms has improved his position in the standings by winning against Sergei Shipov, the early leader.

White: John Emms
Black: Sergei Shipov
Hastings Premier 1999
Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	d6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	a6
6	Bc4	e6
7	0-0	Be7
8	a4	Nc6
9	Be3	0-0
10	Kh1	Bd7
11	f4	Rc8
12	Ba2	Qc7
13	Qe2	Na5
14	Rad1	Nc4
15	Bc1	Rfd8
16	g4	Qc5
17	g5	Ne8
18	f5	e5
19	Nd5	Bf8
20	b4	Qa7
21	Bxc4	exd4
22	g6	Kh8
23	gxf7	Nc7
24	Nf4	Black resigns

Diagram of final position

White: Mikhail Saltaev
Black: Matthew Sadler
Hastings Premier 1999
Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	d6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	a6
6	f4	e5
7	Nf3	Nbd7
8	Bd3	Be7
9	0-0	0-0
10	Qe1	Re8
11	a3	Nc5
12	Kh1	Bg4
13	Qf2	exf4
14	Bxf4	Bh5
15	Rad1	Bg6
16	Rfe1	h6
17	Bg3	Ng4
18	Qg1	Bf6
19	Nd4	Qb6
20	Nb3	Bxc3
21	bxc3	Ne5
22	Bf1	f6
23	Bf2	Rac8
24	Rd5	Bf7
25	Nxc5	dxc5
26	Rxc5	Qb2
27	Rxc8	Rxc8
28	Bd4	Qxc2
29	Qe3	Qb3
30	Ra1	b5
31	Be2	Nc6
32	Bc5	Rd8
33	Qc1	Qa4
34	Bb4	Bg6
35	Bf3	Qb3
36	Bc5	Rd3
37	Qf4	Rxc3
38	Qd6	Rd3
39	Qxc6	Re3
40	Re1	Qc4
41	Qa8+	Kh7
42	Bb4	Re3

White resigns

Keene online

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by email. The address is keene@chessaol.com. The best contributions from *Times* readers will be published either here or in the Saturday *Times* Weekend column.

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

THE BRANSTOCK
a. Torture
b. A mythical tree
c. A Leicestershire Hunt

FIMBRIA
a. Earrings
b. A battlefield
c. A filament

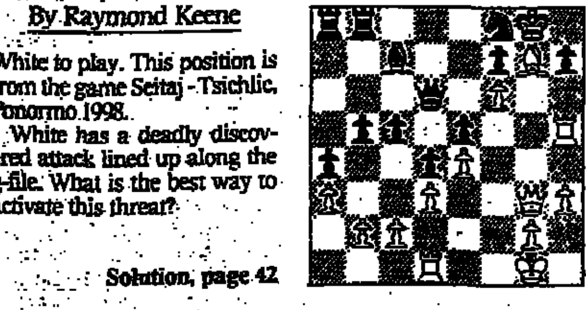
DECRETALS
a. Papal letters
b. Droppings
c. Detonations

LYMPHAD
a. A boat
b. Call for blood donors
c. Crutches

Answers on page 42

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene



White to play. This position is from the game Seitaj - Tsichlic, Ponormo 1998.

White has a deadly discovered attack lined up along the g-file. What is the best way to activate this threat?

Solution, page 42

Such and Headley cut through Australia to leave England tantalising victory target

Run-out debate casts cloud over Slater's century

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN SYDNEY

SYDNEY (third day of five): England, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, need 183 runs to beat Australia.

MICHAEL SLATER may never score a better or more influential century than the one that decorated this stirring final Test match yesterday. He may also never score a luckier one. The paradox relates to a passage of farce that exposed cricket's half-hearted embrace of technology and allowed Slater to proceed with an innings as audacious and resplendent as any this great ground can have witnessed.

Slater, a showman who reserves the highlights of his act for England, made 123 of Australia's 184. The other ten batsmen scored 57 between them as England tigerishly refused to accept that this match was beyond them. Their efforts foundered on the stroke-playing brilliance of this batsman with the feet of a ballet dancer, who now has seven centuries in 16 Ashes Tests.

Only once in Test cricket has anyone exceeded Slater's 66.85 per cent of an all-out total and that was when Charles Bannerman, of Australia, scored 165 out of 245 in the first Test ever played, 122 years ago. Yesterday, on a devilishly difficult pitch, Slater's was a stupendous innings, yet it should probably not have outlived its infancy.

He had made 35 when a direct hit from long-on by Dean Headley found him struggling to run his bat in at the non-striker's end. The decision was properly referred to the third umpire and the initial slow-motion replay, shown on the giant video scoreboard, persuaded Slater to head for the pavilion.

He had reached the edge of the square when the delay in showing the red light caused him to stop and wait. Finally, after three inspections of the incident from the two angles available, the third umpire, Simon Taufel, pressed the green button instead.

England's fielders looked stunned. Slater looked sheepish. Few who had seen the replays can have been in much doubt that Slater was short of his ground but Taufel's decision was complicated, for the best angle was obscured by Peter Such standing, correctly, behind the stumps and the head-on shot required a mental extension of the crease to judge.

Taufel could still have given Slater out without cause for complaint. In reprieving him, he took the principle of benefit of doubt to its extreme but the fault lay not with the humans involved but with the technology, which was inadequate. Until every Test-match ground installs four square-on cameras — so far available only in South Africa and at Lord's — the game is only flirting with science, dangerously and divisively.

Even Slater criticised the application last night, saying: "If you are going to have a third umpire, get the cameras in place so that it's always conclusive." Disingenuously, he denied starting to walk, suggesting instead that he was "taking a break", but he added: "I knew it was very close and I got the benefit of the doubt. From the camera angles he had, he made the best decision he could."

Such, the closest man to the incident, diplomatically dead-batted the issue of English resentment but there is no disputing it could have turned the game. Australia had already lost two wickets in the first hour and they were to lose two more before lunch. Slater alone gave substance to their innings and credibility to the target they were to set.

Indeed, considering that they won a critical toss and achieved a first-innings lead of 102, Australia's performance yesterday was shaky. They had the opportunity to bury England; instead, they found them responding to adversity with the spirit imbued by their Melbourne win. Late in the day, they were not cowed even by the mission to score more than has ever been achieved to win a Sydney Test match.

The day was as dramatic as its two predecessors. Also as blissfully blue and as chaotically atmospheric. More than 33,000 turned up, increasing the match attendance to 114,528, and not one of them can have felt they were short-changed. Peter Such finished with five wickets, for the first time since his Test debut at Old Trafford in 1993, but on a pitch turning extravagantly this was as it should be. The Herculean performance came, once again, from Dean Headley, who improved his figures in the past three innings of this series to 14 for 162. This really might be his belated coming of age.

Headley was to dismiss three of the top four, Slater included, but Darren Gough, whose series is ending with comparable credit, first eliminated Mark Taylor through a straightforward slip catch. Justin Langer was a mite unlucky to be adjudged leg-before to a ball still rising, but in the closing overs of the morning Mark Waugh was acrobatically caught at square leg and Darren Lehmann pushed woodenly at Such, John Crawley grabbing a reflex catch at silly point.

To retain a realistic chance, it seemed that England must bowl out Australia for no more than 150 and Slater personally ensured their failure. At 110 for six, though, with Ian Healy out to the turning ball and the injured Steve Waugh losing his off stump to a beauty from Headley, their hopes were justifiably high. David Lloyd, the coach, patrolled the dressing-room balcony like a football manager unable to settle in the dug-out. The Barmy Army sang, or offered their croaking equivalent. On the field, however, Alec Stewart was unwilling to use more than his three main bowlers, casting the inclusion of Alex Tudor into still graver suspicion. To choose Tudor ahead of Alan Mullally indicated a willingness to attack, which England had to do to square the series. But yesterday, when attack was their only option, Tudor bowled just five overs and not at all after the opening 90 minutes. It was another error tacitly admitted.

Slater, meanwhile, was the master of all he surveyed. His ability to select the ball to hit — once his greatest folly — was now his strength. His three sixes off Such were struck unerringly and his cover-driving against the seam bowlers was sumptuous. As ever, the century produced a dance routine that would be offensive in others but this man is such an entertainer that it is part of the package to be enjoyed. Bewildering to recall, now, that Australia did not select him for a single Test in England two years ago.

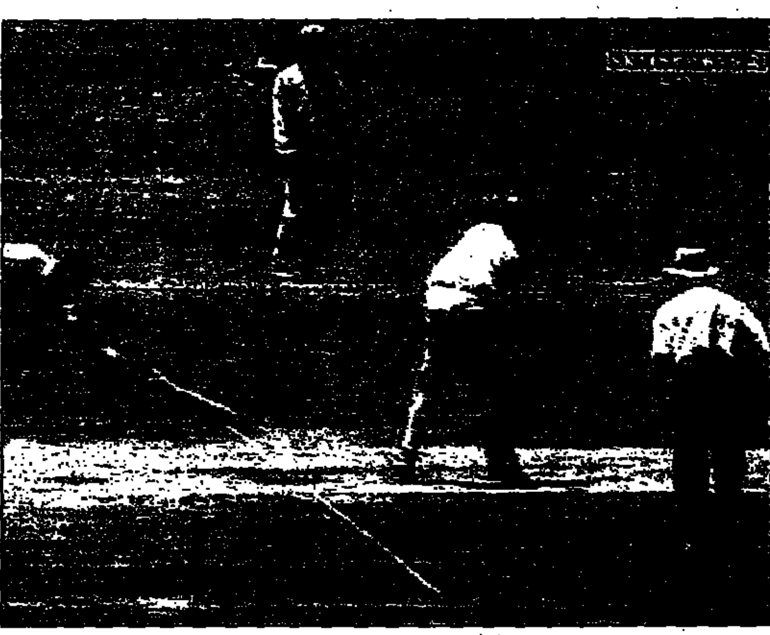
A cramped cut finally brought him down and with Such taking the two remaining wickets in a single over, England were batting with 30 overs of the day to come. Few would have bargained on them conceding only two wickets before the close.

Stewart and Mark Butcher were splendidly assertive. They took their runs early, both because the ball was hard and because they knew the perils that lay in wait. Shane Warne was the third of the spin trio used but, as in the first innings, he struck in his opening over.

Again it was Butcher who succumbed, stumped from a ball angled across him, and when Stewart went the same way, though to a rush of blood against Stuart MacGill, England were in trouble. Warne was predatory, his confidence high, but somehow Hussain and Ramprakash saw it through, keeping a compelling contest alive.



The helmeted Crawley congratulates Headley on his direct hit as England fielders await the verdict on the Slater run-out incident. The view of umpire Hair, bottom left, was obscured by Such and another angle, bottom right, was deemed inconclusive. Slater, top right, went on to celebrate his century



SCOREBOARD FROM SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA: First innings 322 (M E Waugh 121, S R Waugh 96; D W Headley 4 for 62).

Second innings

M J Slater c Hegg b Headley ..... 123 (271min, 189 balls, 3 sixes, 11 fours)
* M A Taylor c Stewart b Gough ..... 2 (30min, 25 balls)
J L Langer lbw b Headley ..... 1 (11min, 5 balls)
M E Waugh c Ramprakash b Headley ..... 24 (79min, 60 balls, 4 fours)
D S Lehmann c Crawley b Such ..... 0 (12min, 8 balls)
† I A Healy c Crawley b Such ..... 5 (36min, 26 balls)
S R Waugh b Headley ..... 8 (37min, 29 balls, 1 four)
S K Warne c Ramprakash b Such ..... 8 (24min, 12 balls)
S C G MacGill c Butcher b Such ..... 6 (46min, 24 balls)
C R Miller not out ..... 3 (15min, 9 balls)
G D McGrath c Stewart b Such ..... 0 (2min, 2 balls)
Extras (b 3, lb 1) 4
Total (64.5 overs, 287min) 184

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-16 (Slater 14), 2-25 (Slater 22), 3-64 (Slater 37), 4-73 (Slater 46), 5-91 (Slater 59), 6-110 (Slater 70), 7-141 (Slater 93), 8-180 (MacGill 6), 9-184 (Miller 3).

BOWLING: Headley 19-7-40-4 (5 fours; 2-1-4-0, 5-1-14-1, 4-3-1-1, 5-2-11-1, 3-0-10-1); Gough 15-3-51-1 (5 fours; 8-2-17-1, 4-1-10-0, 3-0-24-0); Such 25.5-5-81-5 (3 sixes, 5 fours; 2-0-6-0, 23.5-5-75-5). Tudor 5-2-8-0 (1 four; one spell)

ENGLAND: First innings 220 (S C G MacGill 5 for 57)

Second innings

M A Butcher st Healy b Warne ..... 27 (60min, 47 balls, 3 fours)
* A J Stewart st Healy b MacGill ..... 42 (83min, 55 balls, 5 fours)
N Hussain not out ..... 17 (64min, 47 balls, 1 four)
M R Ramprakash not out ..... 14 (41min, 31 balls, 1 four)
Extras (lb 3, w 1) 4
Total (2 wkts, 30 overs, 124min) 104

J P Crawley, G A Hick, † W K Hegg, A J Tudor, D W Headley, D Gough and P M Such to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-57 (Stewart 28), 2-77 (Hussain 8).

BOWLING: McGrath 4-0-26-0 (4 fours, one spell). Miller 9-1-26-0 (1 four; 2-0-8-0, 4-1-11-0, 3-0-7-0); MacGill 8-1-27-1 (w 1; 4 fours; one spell). Warne 9-1-22-1 (1 four; one spell)

SCORING NOTES: Third day: Lunch: 74-4 (34 overs, 149min; Slater 47, Healy 0). Tea: 178-7 (61 overs, 269min, Slater 122, MacGill 5). All out at 4.18pm

Umpires: R S Dunne (New Zealand) and D B Hair. Third umpire: S J Taufel. Match referee: J R Reid (New Zealand)

SERIES DETAILS: First (Brisbane): Drawn. Second (Perth): Australia won by 7 wickets. Third (Adelaide): Australia won by 205 runs. Fourth (Melbourne): England won by 12 runs.

☐ Compiled by Bill Frindall

Spirited England reclaim their pride

Michael Henderson salutes a fighting comeback in an Ashes series that seemed doomed to disappointment

You could search the dictionary for words to describe the third day's play at Sydney and still end up wordshy. It was sensational. Whatever befalls England when they resume their second innings, let nobody withhold the praise that these players are due. They have had the worst of it and they may yet prevail. Victory would be astonishing; defeat would be no disgrace.

The way they stuck at their task in the face of indifference from the Valkyries who observe the natural laws of justice was marvellous. Plenty of people have had their say about the team on this tour, and the way they batted at Adelaide invited criticism, but their performance at Melbourne, and again here, shows that, whatever qualities they lack, they are not short of spirit.

Consigned to the knacker's yard, they have come back with a mighty bang. Slater batted superbly for his hundred but England deserved every commendation for their refusal to give up a game that has, at various points, looked beyond them. The first day of this Test was glorious, cricket at its best. This one matched it.

If any one performance was worthy of special consideration it was that of Headley. At times he must have wondered if he had any part to play on this tour, but has seized his chance with both hands since winning favour at Adelaide. Six wickets on the last day at Melbourne won a great Test and he couldn't have done much more than he has done here.

On a pitch loaded for the spinners he has taken eight wickets and has bowled his little cotton socks off. Yesterday, if anything, was his finest day. He took two wickets in the morning and ran out Slater with a direct hit from 60 yards only to see the third umpire give the batsman in.

It was the sort of decision to break a player's heart and England's disbelief was graphic. The fact that Slater, who was 35 at the time, went on to make 123 out of 184 made it just about unbearable. But Headley ploughed on gamely to remove Steve Waugh and then Slater himself. He is entitled to hope the batsmen acquit themselves as well.

At the start of the day, bogged down by the deficit of 102, nobody really thought England stood much of a chance. It is a measure of their spirit that, as their players go into the final day of a five-Test series in which they have lost every toss, shelled 17 chances and were 2-0 down after three matches, they still have a chance of sharing it.

Whether they win will depend on the mood that Hussain and Ramprakash adopt on the resumption. They played the wrist spinners well after Stewart and Butcher launched the chase with some fine attacking strokes, and that is surely the best policy.

Slater showed them how. If one overlooks the run-out — and even he had given himself out — then it is easy to commend his innings. The great thing about this chap is, he dares. There he was, dancing down to greet Such and thumping him over mid-off for a pair of sixes, and over mid-wicket for another. He's always on the move, always looking for runs.

In the pavilion bar, when Slater was in the 80s, a member could be heard saying: "He's saved himself again. He only makes runs in the second innings." What? For the second successive Ashes series in Australia he has made three hundreds, and now has 11 in Tests. Furthermore, he gets them in a way that compels people to watch him. People have said similarly rude things about Mark Waugh, who is seen by some to be too cavalier, yet he and Slater have made the hundreds that give Australia the chance to win the match and the series.

If they do, then tip your hats to a fine side. If, however, England surprise everybody, including themselves, it will be a win to rank with any in their recent past. They have reclaimed their pride at Sydney, which is worth a victory in itself.

Fairbrother has look of perfection in practice

BRISBANE: England XI beat Queensland Academy of Sport by 44 runs

NEIL FAIRBROTHER led the way as England's one-day team beat the Queensland Academy of Sport in a practice match that was shortened by rain here yesterday. The left-handed Fairbrother hit 68 from 75 balls, with four fours and two sixes, in an England total of 214 for six from 38 overs.

The openers, Nick Knight and Vince Wells, made sound contributions for England, who then bowled economically to keep the Queenslanders at bay. Robert Croft and Ashley Giles were the pick of the England bowlers, each claiming two wickets.

Martin Love was Queensland Academy's leading scorer with an unbeaten 67.

ENGLAND

N Knight c Foley b Creevey 48
V Wells c Maher b Hutcheson 31
B Hollioake run out 4
N Fairbrother c Hayden b Creevey 68
A Hollioake run out 14
M Alleyne c Foley b O'Leary 2
M Ealham not out 24
R Croft not out 4
Extras (nb 5, w 6, lb 7, b 1) 19
Total (6 wkts, 38 overs) 214

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-45, 2-56, 3-130, 4-161, 5-169, 6-184.

BOWLING: Creevey 8-0-50-2; Dawes 8-0-27-0; Hutcheson 4-0-26-1; Foley 6-0-29-0; Prestwidge 8-0-53-0; O'Leary 4-0-21-1.

QUEENSLAND ACADEMY OF SPORT

M Hayden c Alleyne b Hamilton 9
J Maher b B Hollioake 19
M Love not out 67
G Foley b Croft 28
C Perren c Alleyne b Croft 2
L Carseldine c Ealham b Giles 4
S Prestwidge c Fairbrother b Mullally 25
B Creevey lbw b Giles 1
W Seccombe not out 1
Extras (lb 6, w 8) 14
Total (7 wkts, 38 overs) 170

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-22, 2-47, 3-111, 4-113, 5-124, 6-164, 7-168.

BOWLING: Mullally 7-0-27-1; Hamilton 5-1-14-1; Ealham 7-1-32-0; B Hollioake 4-0-16-1, A Hollioake 5-0-28-0; Croft 5-0-24-2; Giles 5-0-23-2.

West Indies are grateful to Hooper

FROM IVO TENNANT IN CAPE TOWN

CAPE TOWN (third day of five): South Africa, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, lead West Indies by 285 runs.

ALTHOUGH West Indies avoided following on yesterday, largely through a feline innings of 86 by Carl Hooper, and took South Africa's first three wickets in a trice, they are hardly in an unassailable position.

Some resolute batting will be required of them today and tomorrow to avoid a fourth successive defeat in this series.

West Indies managed to take the three second-innings wickets without Ambrose, who, handicapped by a knee injury, had batted with a runner and did not bowl.

McLean, who has re-signed for Hampshire, had Kirsten caught at mid-off and Cullinan, scorer of 168 in the first innings, leg-before for a duck. Cullinan, like many before — even Geoffrey Boycott, resurrecting his broadcasting career here on South African television — discovered what a harsh game this can be.

Gibbs was taken down the leg side off Dillion, but Kallis and Cronje then batted competently enough to extend their side's lead to 285 by close of play.

Cronje might well not have enforced the follow-on anyway, as he, too, is having to make do without his best bowler. Donald has hamstring trouble, but might be sufficiently recovered to return to the middle later in the match.

In his place, Kallis took a couple of wickets and the captain had Hooper dropped at cover in the first over of the day.

From that moment, until he was run out attempting a third run in his languid, even dilatory manner, Hooper timed his drive, as well as the leg glances he plays more fine of the wicket than any other batsman, in his customary deft way. A wastrel? Perhaps, but not when he bats like this or as he did for Kent over several seasons.

In the course of making 86 off 152 balls with eight fours, Hooper reached 4,000 Test runs. He soon lost Ganga, who was deceived by a slower ball from Pollock, but there were useful contributions from Jacobs and Gibson, who have not had a particularly successful season with Griqualand West. Gibson's 37, which included one delightful flicked four to mid-wicket off Adams, — he bowled poorly, conceding 61 runs off 16 overs — was the second-highest score of the innings.

Every day here, there is a comment or an announcement or a pledge about the make-up of the Test and provincial teams.

The politicians, administrators and selectors are in a frightful tangle over whether black and coloured cricketers should be chosen for the national side on merit.

The latest statement, put out by the sport's Transformation Monitoring Committee, amounted to an acceptance of a public apology by the president of the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCB).

Ray White, who played for Gloucestershire and Transvaal, added comments of his own to the UCB's Transformation Charter, broadly telling politicians such as Steve Tshwete, the Minister of Sport, not to meddle in team selections.

He has been forced to issue a public apology by the Monitoring Committee, but his position would appear to be untenable, and, sooner or later, it seems that someone will call for his resignation at a board meeting.

SCOREBOARD FROM CAPE TOWN

WEST INDIES First innings

P A Wallace c Cullinan b Donald 8
J R Murray c Boucher b Donald 0
S Chanderpaul c Rhodes b Terbrugge 6
* B C Lara hit wicket b Donald 4
C L Hooper run out 86
D Ganga c Kirsten b Pollock 17
† R D Jacobs c Kallis b Pollock 29
O D Gibson c Kirsten b Kallis 37
N A M McLean c Cronje b Adams 14
C E L Ambrose not out 4
M Dillon c Boucher b Kallis 0
Extras (lb2, w2, nb3) 7
Total (85 overs) 212

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-10, 3-14, 4-34, 5-108, 6-146, 7-164, 8-199, 9-210

BOWLING: Donald 6-1-20-3, Pollock 22-9-36-2, Terbrugge 20-8-37-1, Kallis 15-5-34-2, Adams 16-2-51-1, Cronje 6-1-23-0

SOUTH AFRICA

First innings: 406-8 dec (H. Gibbs 42, J Kallis 110, D Cullinan 168, M. Dillon 3-99)

Second innings

G. Kirsten c Murray b McLean 5
H H Gibbs c Jacobs b Dillon 25
J.H Kallis not out 28
D J Cullinan lbw b McLean 0
* W J Cronje not out 32
Extras (1 w) 1
Total (for 3 wkts, 36 overs) 91

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-31, 2-31, 3-31

BOWLING: McLean 9-1-25-2; Gibson 13-2-42-0. Dillon 10-2-15-1 Hooper 5-2-7-0; Chanderpaul 1-0-2-0

Dravid shares record stand to give India unlikely lead

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

RAHUL DRAVID scored an almost flawless 190 to steer India to a first-innings lead of 50 in the third Test against New Zealand in Hamilton.

Dravid, assisted by a brave but lucky 76 from the tail-ender, Javagal Srinath, was the backbone of India's innings of 416, in which seven batsmen failed to make more than a dozen runs. At stumps on the third day, New Zealand had added 45 runs without loss to their first-innings total of 366.

Dravid, who had helped to repair the innings on Sunday after both openers went cheaply, filled the breach again yesterday when India lost two early wickets and slumped to 211 for seven. Dravid and Srinath stepped in with a record partnership of 144, beating by one run India's previous best eighth-wicket stand against New Zealand, between Bapu Nadkarni and Farrokh Engineer in Madras in 1964-65. Venkatesh Prasad also contributed a valuable 30 for the last wicket.

Srinath survived a run-out when he was on four. A run later, he snicked Simon Doull for what should have been a comfortable catch to Stephen Fleming at first slip. Daniel Vettori dived for the catch from second slip but spilt the ball. Srinath survived two more difficult chances, while other edges and mis-hits fell just outside the fielders' reach.

But Srinath did play some stylish shots and Dravid said the fast bowler's refusal to go on the defensive inspired him. Fatigue finally caught up with Dravid, when he was caught off a tired shot against Cairns.

SCOREBOARD FROM HAMILTON

INDIA: First innings

N S Sidhu c Parore b Cairns 1
A D Jadeja c Nash b Doull 12
R S Dravid c McMillan b Cairns 190
S R Tendulkar lbw b Nash 67
S C Ganguly c Fleming b Doull 11
* M Azharuddin c Fleming b Cairns 4
† N R Mongia c Horne b Nash 7
A Kumble c Parore b Doull 0
J Srinath c Twose b Wiseman 76
B K V Prasad not out 30
R Singh c Fleming b Cairns 0
Extras (1 b, 5 lb, 8 w, 4 nb) 18
Total (all out, 128.3 overs) 416

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-17; 2-17; 3-125; 4-184; 5-195; 6-204, 7-211, 8-355; 9-416

BOWLING: Doull 36-15-64-3; Cairns 22.3-3-107-4; Nash 37-11-98-2; Vettori 16-2-71-0; McMillan 4-0-24-0; Wiseman 13-2-48-1.

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings

M D Bell not out 18
M J Horne not out 25
Extras (1 lb, 1 w) 2
Total (no wkt, 16 overs) 45

* S P Fleming, R G Twose, C D McMillan, † A C Parore, C L Cairns, D J Nash, D L Vettori, S B Doull, P J Wiseman to bat.

BOWLING: Prasad 8-2-[illegible]; Singh 2-0-15-0; Srinath 2-1-4-0; Kumble 4-2-6-0

FOOTBALL

Blatter to push plan for Fifa centenary cup

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

BARELY 24 hours after igniting heated debate over the possibility of a biennial World Cup, Sepp Blatter, the president of Fifa, football's world governing body, stoked the flames a little further yesterday by saying that he would like to stage a tournament in 2004 to celebrate the organisation's centenary.

With the great and the good of the game still struggling to unravel the implications of Blatter's radical long-term proposal, his latest pronouncement was hardly designed to damp down the smouldering power struggle between the international body and the various forces fuelling the rise of club football.

"Fifa will be celebrating its hundredth anniversary in the year 2004," Blatter said. "To my mind, a concrete way should be found of organising a major competition that year. This would not however, for good reason, include 32 teams but perhaps just 24 as it was before the French edition last year."

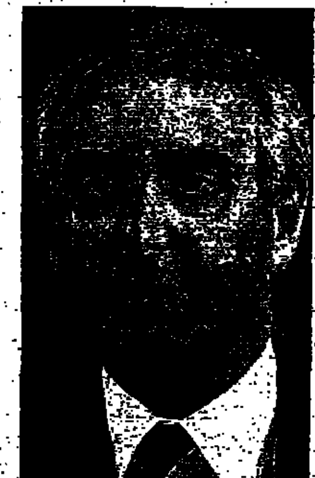
Blatter said that the idea of a biennial competition has been discussed within Fifa since 1996, so he was effectively only reopening the dossier; nevertheless, he made it clear that it would be difficult to close.

"We are going to start consulting the national associations in the very near future," he said. "Personally, I believe in it very strongly and I will be putting all my strength and energy into realising this reform. I am not the sort of person to start talking about something and then retract."

David Will, the Scottish solicitor who is a Fifa vice-president, acknowledged that Blatter's motive was to retain the status of the international game ahead of the burgeoning club tournaments, spearheaded by the the European Cup Champions' League.

"For me the most important part of what he said was his anxiety to preserve the national teams and that is a desire shared by the rest of us and gives us all anxiety. But I would say being every four years does, without doubt, give the World Cup its special quality and there would be the danger of a biennial event losing that.

"This has not as yet been discussed at executive meetings and members like myself are hearing it now for the first time, but we would not reject any suggestion out of hand.



Will: can see difficulties

When an idea is proposed by the president of Fifa then it deserves a fair hearing as to its potential merits, but I have to say I can foresee enormous problems.

"There would be logistical concerns because of the sheer level of organisation required to prepare for and produce a successful World Cup tournament.

"There is also the matter of the confederations having their own competitions, notably the likes of the European championships and the African Nations Cup."

Jim Farry, of the Scottish Football Association, expressed his own scepticism, citing the negative impact it may have on already jaded players.

"Players are already complaining about playing too many games and this would only heighten the burden on them," he said. "What we should be looking to do is increasing the quality of football rather than the quantity."

Franz Beckenbauer and Karl Heinz Rummenigge, two celebrated figures in German football and powerful voices at Bayern Munich, expressed contrasting opinions. While Beckenbauer, who is spearheading Germany's effort to host the 2006 tournament, was broadly in agreement with Blatter, Rummenigge remained distinctly unimpressed.

"These proposals cannot be in the interests of the clubs," Rummenigge, twice a losing World Cup finalist and now a vice-president at Bayern, said. "In a World Cup year, clubs lose their players for qualification, preparation and for the tournament itself. In total, it is a period of around three months, during which the clubs are still paying their players.

"I cannot imagine the big clubs will welcome such a reform. It is easy to see that the national game should be boosted but the only way of doing that is through quality rather than quantity."

That is an argument that Beckenbauer, the president at Bayern, accepts but he felt that a biennial competition would rid the international game of many of its more meaningless fixtures. "The present qualification for the World Cup has devalued international competition," he said.

Peter Velappan, the general secretary of the Asian Football Confederation, said that staging the World Cup biennially could reduce the spectacle of what is now the most popular sporting event held.

"The organising of the the World Cup is a daunting challenge, requiring years of really hard work. Once in four years seem to be reasonable," he said.

"It might lose it's charm and spectacle. Right now, people wait and anticipate. There's a lot of build-up. If things become frequent, it might also become cheap."

ITV on the defensive in Cup draw row

BY GEORGE CAULKIN

THE idyllic image of a happy family hunched around the wireless at lunchtime on a Monday might well belong to another era, but the timing of the FA Cup draw can still be a source of considerable consternation. ITV discovered as much yesterday, when the television station was forced to defend the staging of the draw for the fourth round on Sunday afternoon with several third-round ties still extant.

ITV broadcast live coverage of the draw at 4pm, immediately after their chosen televised match between Port Vale and Liverpool. That it coincided with Norwich City's 4-1 defeat away to Sheffield Wednesday and Manchester United's victory over Middlesbrough — as well as preceding the game between Preston North End and Arsenal, the holders, last night — prompted some forthright criticism.

The decision was attacked by Danny Wilson, the Wednesday manager and his Norwich counterpart, Bruce Rioch. The latter raised the possibility of an unfair advantage being garnered by the early announcement. "It's out of order, it's unfair and it could have an effect on teams and players," he said. Wilson concurred, saying: "I couldn't believe they did it. They should have let the games finish first."

Both ITV and the Football Association, who in tandem agreed the choice of slot, justified Sunday's timetable, arguing that it opened up the draw, also broadcast by Sky Sports and Radio Five Live, to its largest possible audience. "It made absolute sense that we show the draw at the end of our match, when the highest number of football fans are watching," Carol Millward, head of press at ITV, said.

Steve Double, an FA spokesman, added: "It wasn't so long ago that we were criticised for it being on too late at night. It's the only programme in Britain that goes out live on terrestrial television, satellite television and network radio. We want it to be seen and heard by as many people as possible."



Olowokandi towers above Stern on his arrival in the National Basketball Association. Photograph: Mike Blake

Olowokandi given head start

An England basketball player hoping to make his name in the United States will have to make a detour to Italy first

MICHAEL Olowokandi, the 7ft 1in England centre who was hoping to break into the high-profile and highly rewarding realms of the National Basketball Association (NBA) in the United States, will instead begin his professional career in relative obscurity in Italy.

Olowokandi was the No 1 pick in the NBA draft and was due to sign a multimillion-dollar contract with the Los Angeles Clippers only three years after taking up the sport. But he has fallen victim to the bitter dispute between the NBA and players that threatens to see the season cancelled.

Olowokandi, who was born in Nigeria but moved to England as a youngster, was welcomed by David Stern, the NBA commissioner, at the draft last summer. Stern has said that he plans to advise owners on Thursday to cancel the season if no deal is reached over plans to renegotiate a revenue-sharing agreement with the players, leading to an unprecedented shutdown for the sport in North America.

Olowokandi has now agreed a deal with Kinder Bologna, the Italian club, that will allow him to return to play in the NBA if the dispute is settled. "If the NBA season is resumed he'll be able to come back and play, but if the season is cancelled he'll stay in Italy," Billy Duffy, Olowokandi's agent, said. Duffy, who also negotiated a three-year deal for Andy Betts, the England reserve centre, with Teamsystem Bologna, added: "It'll be his option to stay with Kinder for the rest of the season."

Olowokandi will reportedly earn $650,000 up to February 15 and $1.3 million if he completes the season in Italy. A full season with the Clippers, under the old NBA deal, would have earned him $2.68 million. Olowokandi is expected to arrive in Italy today and provided that he passes a medical he could make his professional debut on Thursday, when Kinder Bologna play PAOK.

Despite his size and athleticism, Olowokandi failed to attract any interest in England several years ago. He had a trial with Thames Valley Tigers, of the Budweiser League, but was not offered a contract. Then, after joining Pacific University in the United States, Olowokandi — who is still desperately wanted by Laszlo Nemeth, the England coach, for the national team — developed into one of the most dominating players at collegiate level, the breeding ground for NBA players.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Jerry Quarry dies, aged 53

■ **BOXING:** The former heavyweight, Jerry Quarry, who faced Muhammad Ali on two occasions and challenged twice for the world title, died yesterday, aged 53. Quarry was admitted to hospital with pneumonia but had been suffering for years from dementia pugilisitica — brain damage caused by repeated blows to the head. Quarry compiled a 53-9-4 professional record, with 33 knockouts. After Ali was stripped of the World Boxing Association crown, Quarry lost a disputed 15-round title bout to Jimmy Ellis on April 27, 1968. He had another shot at the title 14 months later, but was knocked out by Joe Frazier in the seventh round in New York.

■ **TENNIS:** France, who had to qualify for the Hopman Cup, upset Spain, the No 1 seeds, 2-1 in Perth. The France pairing of Guillaume Raoux and Sandrine Testud upstaged Carlos Moyà and Arantxa Sánchez-Vicario 7-5, 7-5, in the mixed doubles to ensure victory. Sweden beat the United States, the second seeds, 2-1. Lindsay Davenport beat Asa Carlsson, 6-2, 6-0, but Jonas Bjorkman beat Jan-Michael Gambill, 6-2, 6-4, and the Swedes won the mixed doubles 7-6, 6-4.

■ **RALLYING:** José Maria Servia, of Spain, won the 451-kilometre fourth section of the Dakar Rally. The Schlesser driver took the stage between Tan Tan, Morocco, and Bir Morgrein, Mauritania, in 4hr, 18 min, 11sec — 3min 19sec ahead of Jutta Kleinschmidt, of Germany, who retained the overall lead in a Mitsubishi Jean-Pierre Fontenay, of France, the defending champion, slipped to tenth after three punctures.

■ **FOOTBALL:** Fifa yesterday suspended the Cameroon soccer federation for an indefinite period, excluding the national team and the country's clubs from international competitions and friendly matches. The decision was made after the country's sports ministry sent a fax to Fifa last week containing reservations about previously agreed plans for the federation, Fifa said in a statement. Fifa dissolved the federation in November due to a series of financial problems.

■ **RUGBY LEAGUE:** St Helens yesterday beat off competition from Castleford Tigers and Wakefield Trinity to re-sign Sonny Nickle, 29, three years after the former Great Britain forward joined Bradford Bulls. "I didn't want to leave in the first place and Ellery Hanley's appointment as coach has played a big part in my decision to return," Nickle said. He has signed a three-year contract and is Hanley's fourth signing after those of Phil Adamson, Kevin Iro and Fereti Tuilagi.

FOR THE RECORD

CRESTA RUN

FAIRCHILDS MacCARTHY CUP (handicap) and EMILY MacCARTHY PLATE: Net totals: 1, B N Duff (GB) 127.74sec; 2, A N P Essenhigh (GB) 128.52sec; 3, Lord Bledisloe (GB) 129.25sec; 4, M G Trivella (Switz) 129.41sec; 5, M Berthod (Switz) 129.69sec. Fastest time of race: Lord Wrottesley (GB) 43.15sec.

MOTOR RALLYING

MOROCCO: Dakar Rally: Fourth stage: (515km including a 451km timed section) **Cars:** 1, J-M Servia (Sp, Schlesser) 4hr 18min 11sec; 2, J Kleinschmidt (Ger, Mitsubishi) at 3min 19sec; 3, J-L Schlesser (Fr, Schlesser) 5min 47sec; 4, H Masuoka (Japan, Mitsubishi) 12:21; 5, K Shinozuka (Japan, Mitsubishi) 16:36. **Motorbikes:** 1, O Gallardo (Sp, BMW) 4hr 31min 10sec; 2, F Meoni (It, KTM) at 2:49; 3, R Sainct (Fr, BMW) 4:40; 4, C Sotelo (Sp, Yamaha) 5:43; 5, A Cox (SA, KTM) 10:00. **Overall positions: Cars:** 1, Kleinschmidt 8hr 4min 47sec; 2, Servia 6:06; 3, Schlesser 8:28; 4, Masuoka 10:57; 5, Shinozuka 31:07. **Motorbikes:** 1, Gallardo 8hr 15min 4sec; 2, Sainct 1:56; 3, Cox 3:29; 4, Meoni 3:47.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE: AFC wild-card match: Jacksonville 25 New England 10. **NFC wild-card match:** San Francisco 30 Green Bay 27.

FOOTBALL

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Abidjan: Ivory Coast 3 Togo 1.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE: Edmonton 3 Philadelphia 3 (OT), Chicago 1 Detroit 3.

SNOOKER

SCOTTISH OPEN: Blackpool: First qualifying round: S Reardon (Eng) bt S Mifsud (Austria) 5-3, A Carter (Eng) bt B Rowswell (Eng) 5-1, D McDonnell (Eng) bt W Talaat (Egypt) 5-2, K Helgason (Ice) bt B Haneveer (Bel) 5-1, G Dunn (Sco) bt N Robertson (Austria) 5-0, P Cavney (Eng) bt G Natale (Can) 5-3, J Delaney (Irl) bt M Cutajar (Malta) 5-3, M Johnston-Allen (Eng) bt D Hackeson (Eng) 5-3, M Wilson (Eng) bt N Naren (SA) 5-2, J Younger (Austria) bt S Gill (Eng) 5-3, R Hull (Fin) bt M Bray (Eng) 5-0.

TENNIS

PERTH, Australia: Hopman Cup: Sweden 2 United States 1 (United States names first): L Davenport bt A Carlsson 6-2, 6-0; J-M Gambill lost to J Bjorkman 2-6, 4-6; Davenport and Gambill lost to Bjorkman and Carlsson 6-7, 4-6. France 2, Spain 1 (France names first): S Testud bt A Sanchez-Vicario 6-4, 6-3; G Raoux lost to C Moya 6-7, 6-2, 3-6; Raoux and Testud bt Moya and Sanchez-Vicario 7-5, 7-5.

ADELAIDE: Australian Men's Hardcourt championships: First Round: G Kuerten (Bra) bt J Golmard (Fr) 7-5, 6-1; M Tebbutt (Aus) bt S Lareau (Can) 6-3, 3-6, 6-1; S Draper (Aus) bt J Gimelstob (US) 3-6, 7-6, 6-3; J Stoltenberg (Aus) bt A Di Pasquale (Fr) 6-1, 6-4; T Enqvist (Swe) bt M Woodforde (Aus) 0-6, 6-4, 6-4; L Hewitt (Aus) bt N Kiefer (Ger) 7-5, 6-4.

BRISBANE: Australian Women's Hardcourt championships First round: A Sugiyama (Japan) bt C Morariu (US) 6-2, 6-7, 6-3; S Pitkowski (Fr) bt A Molik (Aus) 6-3, 6-2; R Dragomir (Rom) bt E Tatarkova (Ukr) 6-1, 6-3; W Shi-ting (Taiwan) bt S Plischke (Aut) 6-4, 7-6 (7-2); M Serna (Sp) bt S Appelmans (Bel) 6-2, 3-6, 6-3; E Likhovtseva (Russ) bt N Pratt (Aust) 6-2, 6-1; N Dechy (Fr) bt T Panova 6-1, 2-6, 6-2.

AUCKLAND: ASB Bank Women's Classic: First round: J Halard-Decugis (Fr) bt J Nejedly (Can) 6-3, 6-3; B Schett (Austria) bt E Wagner (Ger) 6-1, 6-0; F Labat (Arg) bt R Hudson (NZ) 6-3, 6-2; S Farina (It) bt A Glass (Ger) 6-4, 7-5; M A Vento (Ven) bt M Weingartner (Ger) 5-7, 6-0, 6-0; M Shaughnessy (US) bt L Golarsa (It) 6-1, 6-4; M Sanchez Lorenzo (Sp) bt A Kremer (Lux) 3-6, 6-3, 6-4. S Farina (It) bt A Glass (Ger) 6-4, 7-5; J Halard-Decugis (Fr) bt J Nejedly (Can) 6-3, 6-3; B Schett (Austria) bt E Wagner (Ger) 6-1, 6-0; M Alejandro Vento (Ven) bt M Weingartner (Ger) 5-7, 6-0, 6-0; F Labat (Arg) bt R Hudson (NZ) 6-3, 6-2; M Shaughnessy (US) bt L Golarsa (It) 6-1, 6-4.

SAILING

CLIPPER ROUND THE WORLD RACE: Leg 2d (Galapagos to Hawaii: with miles to finish): 1, Ariel (A Thomson) 2954; 2, Antiope (K Harris) 2982; 3, Chrysolite (T Hedges) 3018; 4, Memnerus (B Sollars) 3029; 4=, Taeping (N Fleming) 3029; 6, Thermopylae (M Tod) 3137; 7, Senca (R Dean) 3151.

SNOW REPORTS

SKI CLUB

Resort	Depth (cm) L	U	Piste	Conditions / Weather / Last snow
Andorra				
Soldeu	70	100	Good	[illegible]
Austria				
Kitzbühel	20	89	Fair	[illegible]
Obergurgl	35	150	Good	[illegible]
Soll	25	75	Fair	[illegible]
St Anton	30	270	Good	[illegible]
France				
Alpe d'Huez	55	180	Good	[illegible]
Avoriaz	65	85	Fair	[illegible]
Chamonix	50	125	Good	[illegible]
La Plagne	65	160	Good	[illegible]
La Tania	10	105	[illegible]	[illegible]
Les Arcs	35	150	Good	[illegible]
Megève	15	100	Fair	[illegible]
Meribel	35	105	Fair	[illegible]
Tignes	82	159	Good	[illegible]
Val Thorens	50	120	Good	[illegible]
Val d'Isère	62	135	Good	[illegible]
Italy				
Cervinia	30	150	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cortina	10	80	[illegible]	[illegible]
Livigno	25	100	[illegible]	[illegible]
Switzerland				
Crans Montana	10	75	[illegible]	[illegible]
Davos	30	120	Good	[illegible]
Grindelwald	20	88	Fair	[illegible]
Klosters	30	120	Good	[illegible]
Murren	20	100	Fair	[illegible]
Saas Fee	20	145	Good	[illegible]
St Moritz	10	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Villars	20	[illegible]	Fair	[illegible]
Wengen	40	[illegible]	Fair	[illegible]
Zermatt	15	90	Fair	[illegible]
United States				
Aspen	83	83	Good	[illegible]
Deer Valley	77	85	Good	[illegible]

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TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
**denotes all-ticket*

Auto Windscreens Shield
Northern Section Second round

Darlington v Chesterfield (7.45)
Halifax v York (7.45)
Hull v Wrexham
Lincoln v Mansfield (7.45)
Rochdale v Stoke (7.45)
Wigan v Scarborough (7.45)

Southern Section

Bournemouth v Peterborough (7.45)
Brighton v Millwall (7.45)
Camb Utd v Northampton (7.45)
Exeter v Southend (7.45)
Luton v Walsall (7.45)
Swansea v Gillingham (7.45)
Torquay v Fulham (7.15)
Wycombe v Brentford (7.45)

Tennents Scottish Cup
Second round replay

Stirling v Montrose

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH FA XI v Comb Services (at Burton Albion).

DR MARTENS LEAGUE CUP: Second round: Bedworth v Tamworth. **Second round replay:** Witney v Bath.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Unifilla First Division Cup: Third round: Altrincham v Ashton United. **Challenge Cup: Second round replay:** Hucknall Town v Emley.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE CUP: Third round: Barton Rovers v Boreham Wood; Berkhamsted Tn v Aldershot Tn (7.45), Sutton United v Basingstoke

THE RYMAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE: Premier division: Dulwich v Walton and Hersham. **Second division:** Banstead v Thame Utd. **Puma Cup: Second round:** Carshalton v Chertsey

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Third round: Barnet v Hartlepool; Scunthorpe v Portsmouth.

THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE: North East Conference: Hull YA v Bradford YA (12.0).

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Arsenal v Oxford Res (7.0)

THE PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Liverpool v Leicester (at St Helens RLFC 7.0); Preston v Everton (at Chorley F C., 7.15). **First division:** Oldham v Tranmere (7.0). **Second division:** Bradford v York (7.0). Rotherham v Blackpool (7.0). Sheffield Utd v Huddersfield (7.0)

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Marske v Bedlington Terriers, South Shields v Morpeth Town.

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Haringey v Barkingside; Waltham Abbey v Potters Bar Town; Welwyn Garden v Beaconsfield Sycob

MIDDLESEX COUNTY FA SENIOR CUP: Third round: Edgware v Wembley; Hampton v Southall; Hayes v Enfield, Hendon v Uxbridge; Northwood v Yeading; Potters Bar Town v Ruislip Manor; Staines v Hillingdon Borough

RUGBY UNION

London Scottish v Gloucester
Newcastle v Bedford
Northampton v London Irish
Sale v Bath

OTHER SPORT

ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: Cardiff Devils v Sheffield Steelers (7.0)

BOXING

Lueshing given chance

BY SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

KEVIN LUESHING gets his second chance to win a world title when he meets Harry Simon, of South Africa, at Newcastle on February 13. The bout will be the fourth world championship on the bill headed by the WBO super middleweight bout between Joe Calzaghe, the champion, and Robin Reid at the TeleWest Arena.

The Beckenham light middleweight, who had the distinction of flooring Felix Trinidad, the formidable IBF champion, in the first round before being stopped himself in the third round of their welterweight encounter in 1997, said yesterday that he'd realised that the job of beating a high-quality champion like Simon would not be an easy one but he felt it was an easier task than Trinidad. Simon took the title from Ronald Wright, of the United States, who outclassed three good Britons in Ensley Bingham, Steve Foster and Adrian Dodson.

"It's going to be a hell of a fight," Lueshing said, "but having been in with Trinidad I know what to expect. Fighting on such a terrific bill will bring out the best in me. It's just what I need.

"I am going to separate myself from negative people for the next five weeks, people who think I can't win. That is why I have asked Kevin Saunders to train me. I have already been up to his gym in Peterborough and I'll be moving there immediately."

Leushing, 30, has won 21 of his 24 contests. But in beating Nicky Thurbin in his last bout in November he did not impress. Leushing blamed worries over a CT scan that caused concern to doctors of the British Boxing Board of Control.

POOLS FORECAST

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

1 Arsenal v Liverpool	X
2 Blackburn v Leeds	1
3 Coventry v Nottm F	1
4 Everton v Leicester	2
5 Middlesbro v A Villa	2
6 Newcastle v Chelsea	2
7 Sheff Wed v Tottenham	X
8 South'pton v Charlton	X
9 Wimbledon v Derby	1

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

10 Birmgham v Port Vale	1
11 Crewe v Norwich	1
12 Hudd'field v Bury	1
13 Ipswich v Grimsby	1
14 Oxford v Bristol C	X
15 QPR v Sunderland	X
16 Stockport v Bradford	2
17 Swindon v Sheff Utd	2
18 Watford v Portsmouth	1
19 West Brom v Barnsley	X

SECOND DIVISION

20 Blackpool v Man City	2
21 Bristol R v Burnley	X
22 Chest'f'd v Colchester	X
23 Fulham v Macclesf'd	1
24 Lincoln v Bourne'mth	2
25 Luton v Wycombe	1
26 Millwall v Wigan	1
27 Notts Co v Oldham	X
28 Reading v Wrexham	1
29 Stoke v North'pton	1
30 Walsall v Gillingham	1
31 York v Preston	2

THIRD DIVISION

32 Barnet v Darlington	X
33 Brighton v Carlisle	1
34 Cambridge v Torquay	1
35 Cardiff v Hartlepool	1
36 Exeter v Swansea	X
37 Halifax v Peterboro	1
38 Hull v Rotherham	2
39 Leyton O v Chester	1

SCOTTISH LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

40 Airdrie v G Morton	1
41 Clydebank v Ayr	2
42 Raith v Falkirk	2
43 St Mirren v Hibernian	2
44 Stranraer v Hamilton	2

SECOND DIVISION

45 Forfar v Clyde	2
46 Inverness C v Arbr'th	1
47 Livingston v E Fife	1
48 Partick v Alloa	1
49 Stirling v Q of South	1

TREBLE CHANCE (home teams): Arsenal, Sheffield Wednesday, Southampton, Oxford, Queens Park Rangers, West Brom, Chesterfield, Notts County, Barnet, Exeter.

BEST DRAWS: Arsenal, Southampton, Oxford, West Brom, Barnet.

AWAYS: Leicester, Aston Villa, Bradford City, Manchester City, Bournemouth.

HOMES: Coventry, Wimbledon, Huddersfield, Ipswich, Millwall, Stoke, Brighton, Cardiff, Leyton Orient.

FIXED ODDS: Homes: Coventry, Huddersfield, Ipswich, Millwall, Leyton Orient.

AWAYS: Aston Villa, Bradford City, Bournemouth.

DRAWS: Southampton, West Brom, Barnet.

Vince Wright's three fixed odds draws were all correct last Saturday

Cup syndicate comes under fire

Edward Gorman, sailing correspondent, hears a racing manager's broadside over plans for Auckland

With time fast running out before the America's Cup Challenger Series in Auckland, senior figures in the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) are becoming increasingly exasperated by the failure of the Spirit of Britain syndicate to secure primary commercial sponsors.

Great Britain has not been represented in the America's Cup at any of the past three stagings of the event and the RYA is anxious that a new start is made at Auckland in October, believing Britain has the talent to make its mark in what is arguably the most important competition in world sailing.

Rod Carr, the RYA racing manager, is unhappy that the Spirit of Britain campaign, led by the sailmaker, Angus Melrose, the yachtsman, Lawrie Smith and Professor Andrew Graves, of Bath University, appears to have become bogged down. He is accusing the syndicate of holding British sailing to ransom.

"I'm getting more and more worried about it," Carr said. "We need this challenge. They [the Spirit of Britain] need to pull their fingers out.

"It's a classic case of a small group trying to run something. We ought to be following the New Zealand example. Everybody laughs at management by committee, but if the whole project was run by people who didn't have financial gain as one of their motives, it would be better off."

According to Carr and other sources, the Spirit syndicate, which has invested more than $250,000 in qualifying payments for the cup, has been talking to a group of companies in the City that may be prepared to commit more than £10 million to enable a two-boat campaign to go ahead.

The companies are thought to be unhappy with the degree of control they have been offered and want a bigger say in how the project is run. It is thought a bid to redraw the structure of the campaign by Richard Down, of Integrated Communication Projects, was rejected by Graves and Melrose in October.

Carr said: "One gets the impression that Spirit of Britain would rather not have it happen than have it happen on someone else's terms. Graves does not return phone calls and Angus and Lawrie do not have the management expertise ... British sailing cannot be held hostage to fortune like this."

Chris Law, who has been told by Smith that he will drive the principal boat at Auckland, shares Carr's belief that the incentive to make money is getting in the way of what should be a campaign run in the interests of British sailing. "The campaign should be administered on behalf of the country as a charitable trust and the national body should be represented," he said.

Law, who is the No 2 match-racer in the world rankings but may be left on the sidelines in Auckland if Spirit founders, argued, however, that a very late start in commissioning boats could be to Britain's advantage. "There are all the right ingredients there — we just have to put the pot in the oven," he said.

Professor Graves, who has worked hard over 18 months to recruit both technical and commercial sponsors for the project, is on the defensive. Yesterday he refused to clarify any detail about the problems facing the syndicate and claimed Carr was out of touch. "He doesn't know what he is talking about," he said.

Professor Graves added that the campaign is still on course to make it to Auckland and that a press statement would be issued in due course.

"I really have no comment to make," he said. "We are negotiating with several potential sponsors and existing sponsors and it would be quite wrong of me to say something that could be misinterpreted and which could cause a lot of damage."

TENNIS

New-look Henman opens with flourish

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN QATAR

TENNIS has not felt like this since the heady days of Telford and the national championships, great occasions when the top seeds all had British names and the home crowd was guaranteed a winner — mainly because no one else was allowed to enter.

These days tennis, together with Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski, has moved on and for the first time on the ATP Tour, Henman and Rusedski are starring at each other from opposite ends of the draw sheet at the Qatar Open.

Occupying the top two spots in the seedings, the two men are favourites to take the lion's share of the $1million prize-money and, after Henman's performance last night against Sjeng Schalken, of Holland, they appear to be ready to follow the script. It was an assured victory from the British No 1, who won 6-2, 6-3 in a little more than an hour.

Sporting a new haircut for the new season — he appears to have gone back to the barber who sharpened his head so alarmingly for the Davis Cup tie last autumn and at best the style is businesslike, at worst he could sue — Henman was neat and tidy in almost every department.

Schalken is a solid sort of chap who has a fair few scalps to his name but he prefers to get his results with as few fireworks as possible. Tall and angular, the jaw is square and the feet are rectangular — he has a very upright stance as he plays and if the tennis does not work out, he has a promising future career as a lamppost.

However, last night he was most definitely put in the shade by Henman, who was understanably pleased with his evening's work.

"For the first match of the year I am happy with the way I came out and I can't have any complaints," he said, showing that he can be just as unflashy as Schalken when he wishes.

"Hopefully my serve is always a dominant factor in any match, but when I was hitting my first serve I was winning the majority of points. This is definitely the best possible start to the year."

In the six weeks since Henman last put racket to ball in competition, he has been hard at work in London and the results were evident in the new snap in his service and the decided spring in his step.

A couple of hiccups early on gave Schalken cause for hope in the shape of two break points but, having had them snatched away by a determined Henman, he allowed himself to dwell on the disappointment and was promptly broken. From there, Henman was on a roll, wrapping up the opening set and skipping to a 3-0 lead in the second. After that, the result was never in doubt.

Henman now plays Younes El Aynaoui, who was a finalist here in 1996 for a place in the quarter finals. El Aynaoui defeated Fabrice Santoro, who recahed the final last year, 6-4, 6-1 on a day of few upsets.

The only worry, as ever, hung over Goran Ivanisevic who took his time to get the better of Francisco Clavet 6-3, 6-7, 6-4, helped on his way by a few Croatian epithets of a less than savoury nature.

Today it is Rusedski's turn, to set the British flags, of which there are several scattered around the centre court, fluttering. He faces Bernd Karbacher, of Germany, a positive veteran at 30. The most impressive part of Karbacher's game is the length of his name and, coupled with a series of injuries and illnesses, he has done very little for a very long time.



MOGENS JOHANSEN

Lindsay Davenport, the world No 1, strides to a 6-2, 6-0 victory over Asa Carlsson, of Sweden, but the United States went down to defeat in the Hopman Cup in Perth

BOWLS

Allcock happy to survive clash with Campbells

BY DAVID RHYS JONES

THE world indoor championships got off to an exciting start yesterday at their new venue, Potters Leisure Resort, on the Norfolk coast, when Mervyn King and Tony Allcock, the 1997 champions, squeezed into the quarter-finals of the pairs event.

They were, however, upstaged by their opponents, two brothers from Ayrshire, Gavin and Graeme Campbell, who seemed to have the match under control for long periods and actually scored more shots than their more famous opponents.

Gavin, 27, and Graeme, three years younger, were making their competitive debut on the portable rink, but had looked good in practice on Sunday and tore into the No 7 seeds with relish and no little skill. King and Allcock won the first set with a treble from 4-3, and the third, 7-6, with another when they were 4-6 adrift, but the young Scots took the second set 7-2 and the fourth 7-1.

"The Campbells are coming," someone quipped when the brothers edged in front 5-4 in the deciding set, but the English pair dug in their heels and scored three successive singles to win 7-3, 2-7, 7-6, 1-7, 7-5.

In the press room after the match, a relieved Allcock admitted that he and King could easily have lost and paid tribute to the skill of Graeme Campbell, the skip.

"He produced some tremendous shots," Allcock said. "First rounds are notoriously difficult, but you must remember that the Campbells are two-bowls specialists and that last time Mervyn and I played the two-bowl game was 12 months ago."

Pairs championships at club, county and national level are traditionally played with four bowls per player, but the two-bowl version was introduced for television in 1986, to cut the time it took to play each end.

"I think Scotland have got it right," Allcock said. "They have a four-bowl championship, but also run a special two-bowl qualifying event, so that their representatives have experience at what is, after all, a very different game."

Ireland, too, include a two-bowl pairs qualifier, but their representatives, Peter Black and Nigel Gibson, sank without trace against the defending champions, Graham Robertson and Richard Corsie, who won their match 7-2, 7-3, 7-0.

The Welsh champions, Graham Dennis and Martyn Roberts, were good value for their win in their national four-bowl event last April, but they looked out of their depth yesterday and scored only two singles against the runners up of last year, Gary Smith and Andy Thomson.

PAIRS: First round: M King and T Allcock (Eng) bt G Campbell and G Campbell (Scot) 7-3, 2-7, 7-6, 1-7, 7-5. G Robertson and R Corsie (Scot) bt P Black and N Gibson (Ire) 7-2, 7-3, 7-0. G Smith and A Thomson (Eng) bt G Dennis and M Roberts (Wales) 7-0, 7-2, 7-0.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 39

THE BRANSTOCK
(b) Volsung, the son of Rerir, who was the grandson of Odin, in his first manhood had built his Hall around a mighty tree. Its branches went to the roof and made the beams, while the trunk was the centre of the hall. This tree was called "the Branstock", and Volsung's hall was named "the Hall of Branstock".

FIMBRIA
(c) A thin filament which extends from the surface of a micro-organism, and functions to facilitate the adhesion of the cell to other cells or the substratum. Fimbriae may occur in large numbers on a given cell. They are not to be confused with pili.

DECRETALS
(a) Papal letters, strictly those in response to a specific inquiry. They have the force of law within the Pope's jurisdiction. The first on record was in 385, Pope Sericius to Himerius, a priest in Tarragona.

LYMPHAD
(a) A common charge in Heraldry and Armoury, associated with the West Coast of Scotland. A lymphad is a boat having a forecastle and sterncastle and stem, with a flagpole.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
Solution: 1 Rxh7! Ng6 (1 ... Kxh7 2 Qh4+ mates as does 1 ... Nxh7 2 Bh6+) 2 Qh4 Nxh4 3 Rh8 checkmate

TELEVISION CHOICE

Fish on the menu again

Rick Stein's Seafood Odyssey
BBC2, 8.30pm

As the title implies there is much travelling in Stein's third television series as he leaves his native Cornwall far behind in search of new seafood dishes to demonstrate and to drool over. Stein is one of the best of the ever-expanding army of TV chefs, with the rare gift of being able to communicate passion without resorting to gimmickry. He is also a bit of a culture vulture. Not many cooks quote Tennyson and Conrad, or muse on the power of Britten's *Peter Grimes*. He begins in Naples, where it is not hard to be passionate, and is soon at work on a local seafood speciality which he says he could eat for a week and not get tired of. For contrast he makes for the cold light and big skies of the North Sea, singling out Suffolk as the quintessential English county and making magic with cod, beer, bacon and cabbage.



Rick Stein travels the world looking for new seafood recipes (BBC2, 8.30pm)

Peak Practice
ITV, 9.00pm

There may be some ungracious souls who think that the Derbyshire medical drama has not been the same since Amanda Burton and Kevin Whately left, but ten million regular viewers would disagree. With that size of audience this seventh series was a formality and the eighth is on the way. When Peak Practice was last on air, Gary Mavers's morose Dr Attwood had been left at the altar by the capricious Dr Erica. Since she has left the cast as well, the surgery has a post to fill. Enter Dr Joanna Graham (Haydn Gwynne), though not before she has given up her present job as a casualty surgeon. And thereby hangs this evening's plot, in which Dr Attwood takes his best friend rally driving, turns the car over and has a seriously injured man on his conscience. The good Dr Graham is the angel of mercy.

Great Railway Journeys
BBC2, 9.30pm

Welcome back to an invariably watchable series in which celebrities who are not necessarily railway buffs hop on a train and send back a visual essay about the experience. Most of the trips have a touch of the exotic, at least compared with catching the 8.04 from Orpington. Ian Hislop, Editor of *Private Eye*, and a practised hand at television documentary, launches the new series in India as he takes the train from Calcutta to the desert forts of Rajasthan. Travelling from the Marxist state of West Bengal to the feudal world of the maharajahs, Hislop ponders on the Taj Mahal, the legacy of the British Raj and India as a nuclear power. And as somebody whose magazine has often ended up in the courts, he notes the much lower cost of libel settlements in India than in Britain.

Full Frontal in Flip Flops
ITV, 10.40pm (Scotland, 10.30pm)

Like buses, documentaries tend to come along in pairs. After a recent Channel 4 programme about naturism it is the turn of ITV, with a film which covers broadly the same ground though in its own style. It was made by Don Boyd, a maverick cinema producer of the 1970s and 1980s (*Scum*, Derek Jarman's *The Tempest*, *Scrubbers*) whose more recent work includes TV series with Ruby Wax. *Full Frontal* is partly a piece of reportage and partly a personal view. Boyd's researches take him to a naturist wedding, a beach in Dorset and a campsite in Hampshire. On the "when in Rome" principle Boyd strips off himself and invites his reluctant production team to do likewise. This may be why he gets such an uninhibited response from people who might not normally welcome the intrusion of television cameras. **Peter Waymark**

RADIO CHOICE

No Triumph, No Tragedy
Radio 4, 9.00am

For a man who cannot speak without a ventilator, and even then only in short bursts, Christopher Reeve gives a remarkably detailed account of his disability when interviewed by Peter White. Reeve, paralysed by a horseriding accident that broke his neck, is best known in films for playing *Superman*. White follows the commendable example of other journalists in not making capital out of the sad spectacle of the gravity-defying crusader being grounded. However, White does press Reeve to say whether he believes in the possibility of his ever being able to walk again. Reeve's reply provides food for thought for those of us who tend to forget that when so-called miracles do occur, they do not happen with the speed of a flash of lightning

Afternoon Play: Elemental Tales — Gaia
Radio 4, 2.15pm

Alice's fall down the rabbit hole and her subsequent riddle-packed adventures in Wonderland are as nothing compared with what happens to young Hebe (Anna Mountford) in Sarah Woods's mystical play. Not getting any response to her calling out for her dead mother, she digs her way beneath the grave and encounters not her parent but Earth Mother (Lindsay Duncan), that icon beloved of those semi-religious sects for whom the key to the "Secret of Life" lies under their feet rather than in the heavens. You will have to concentrate hard to work out what Churchill, Margaret Thatcher, Samuel Pepys and (I believe) Thomas Jefferson or Thomas Paine are doing in this subterranean environment. **Peter Davalle**

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Kevin Greening **2.00pm** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Chris Moyles **6.00** Dave Pearce. Chart hits **8.00** Steve Lamacq: The Evening Session **10.00** Digital Update with Rachel Reynard and Charlie Brooker **10.10** John Peel **12.00** The Breezeblock **2.00am** Clive Warren **4.00** Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Alex Lester **7.30** Sarah Kennedy **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Ed Stewart **5.05** Johnnie Walker **7.00** Alan Freeman: Their Greatest Bits. New series (1/13) **8.00** Nigel Ogden **9.00** Tablets of Stone (r) **10.00** Susan Jeffreys Says Make It a Double. New series featuring songs sung by pairs of artists (1/6) **10.30** Richard Allinsons **12.00** Lynn Parsons **3.00am** Mo Dutta

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00** The Midday News **1.00pm** Ruscoe and Co **4.00** Dave **7.00** News Extra **7.30** The Tuesday Match. Russell Fuller introduces coverage of the night's football action **9.00** Park Life (r) **10.00** Late Night Live **1.00am** Up All Night. Includes updates from the final day of the fifth Test

VIRGIN

6.30am Chris Evans **9.30** Russ Williams **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Bobby Hain **7.30** Harriet Scott **10.00** Mark Forrest **1.00am** James Merritt **4.30** Jeremy Clark

TALK RADIO

6.00am Bill Overton & Sally Meen **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Lorraine Kelly **2.00pm** Anna Raeburn **4.00** Peter Deeley **5.00** The Sports Zone **8.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today **7.00** News **7.15** Off The Shelf. Colomba **7.30** Planet 2000 **8.00** News **8.10** Pause for Thought **8.15** Concert Hall **9.00** News; (648 only) News in German **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Small Worlds **9.30** Plays in Focus. The Glass Menagerie **9.45** Sports Round-Up **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** On Screen **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Watershed **12.00pm** News **12.05** World Business Report **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Health Matters **12.45** Sports Round-Up **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Multitrack Hit List **3.00** News; (648 only) News in German **3.05** Sports Round-Up **3.15** Westway **3.30** The Greenfield Collection **4.00** News **4.15** Global Wildlife **4.30** Insight; (648 only) News in German **4.45** Britain Today **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports Round-Up **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** One Planet; (648 only) News in German **7.00** News Summary **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Pause for Thought **7.30** Megamix **8.00** Newshour **9.00** News **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** Meridian Live **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** Insight **10.45** Sports Round-Up **11.00** News **11.05** Outlook **11.30** Megamix **12.00am** Newsdesk **12.30** Early Versions **12.45** Britain Today **1.00** Newsdesk **1.30** Discovery **2.00** Newsday **2.30** Meridian Live **3.00** News **3.05** World Business Report **3.15** Sports Round-Up **3.30** One Planet **4.00** The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast. Soothing music and information updates **9.00** Henry Kelly. The Hall of Fame Hour and Record of the Week **12.00pm** Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones introduces listeners' favourites **2.00** Concerto: CPE Bach (Oboe Concerto in B flat major) **3.00** Jamie Crick. Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance **6.30** Newsnight. Sport, finance and news updates, with John Brunning **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning introduces classical sounds **9.00** Evening Concert. Suppe (Light Cavalry Overture); Brahms (Violin Concerto in D); Bizet (L'Arlesienne Suite No 2); Beethoven (Symphony No 4 in B flat) **11.00** Mann at Night. Music through till the wee small hours **2.00am** Concerto: CPE Bach (Oboe Concerto in B flat major) (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths. The Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Bach (Orchestral Suite No 3 in D, BWV1068); Schumann (Konzertstuck in F); Mendelssohn (Rondo Capriccioso)
9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday. Includes Falla (Nights in the Gardens of Spain); Bellini (Vanne, O Rosa Fortunata; Vaga Luna che inargenti); Berlioz (Harold in Italy); Debussy, orch Busser (Petite Suite)
10.30 Artist of the Week: Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau
11.00 Sound Stories: Five Painters — William Hogarth with Donald Macleod
12.00 Composer of the Week: Poulenc
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Vienna Trio. Schubert (Piano Trio No 2 in E flat, D929) (r)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Martyn Brabbins and En Shao, with Nicola Loud, violin. MacCunn (The Ship o' the Fiend Overture); Haydn (Symphony No 55 in E flat, Schoolmaster); Mendelssohn (Violin Concerto in E minor); Beethoven (Symphony No 6 in F, Pastoral)
4.00 Voices Ian Burnside introduces a specially recorded programme of music by Brahms and by those composing under his influence (r)
4.45 Music Machine with Tommy Pearson
5.00 In Tune Sean Rafferty talks to the pianist Chick Corea about how Debussy has both influenced and inspired him
7.30 Performance on 3: Susanna Handel's oratorio given in concert during last year's London Handel Festival. Emma Kirkby, soprano, James Bowman, countertenor, London Handel Choir and Orchestra under Denys Darlow
10.20 Postscript Fictuality: Come the Day by Fraser Harrison (2/5) (r)
10.45 Night Waves Richard Coles considers Erica Jong's latest pronouncement on the state of feminism, *What Do Women Want?*
11.30 Jazz Notes Alyn Shipton presents the second in a three-part concert featuring the National Youth Jazz Orchestra
12.00 Composer of the Week: Saint-Saens (r)
1.00am Through the Night with Donald Macleod. 1.00 Music from 16th-century England. The Rose Consort of Viols play music by Taverner, Tye, Gibbons, Ward, Jenkins, Tomkins, Byrd, Lawes and Purcell 1.55 Stanford (Fantasia and Toccata) 2.35 Weber (Piano Sonata No 4 in E minor, Op 70 — 3.00 Bruckner (Symphony No 7 in E) 4.15 Chopin (Twelve Etudes, Op 25) 5.10 Bartok (Dance Suite)

RADIO 4

5.30am (FM) World News
5.30 (LW) Test Match Special Australia v England. Coverage from Sydney of the fourth day's play
5.35 (FM) Shipping 5.40 (FM) Inshore Forecast
5.45 (FM) Prayer for the Day with Lavinia Byrne
5.47 (FM) Farming Today Rural issues, with Anna Hill
6.00 (FM only until 7.00am) Today introduced by Sue MacGregor and James Naughtie
9.00 No Triumph, No Tragedy Peter White talks to disabled achievers in the US, beginning with the actor Christopher Reeve. See Choice (1/6)
9.30 Lean Times Jeremy Charles reports on the crisis facing Britain's pig farmers (1/2)
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
9.45 (FM) Serial: The Vanished World The second part of H.E. Bates's autobiography
10.00 Woman's Hour with Martha Kearney
11.00 Nature: Insight (r)
11.30 The Galton and Simpson Radio Playhouse: Naught for Thy Comfort A tale of a suicidal man who gets a less than sympathetic reception from the Samaritans. Starring Robert Dawes (2/4)
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.00 (FM) News 12.04pm You and Yours Topical consumer news and investigations, introduced by Trixie Rawlinson and Mark Whittaker
1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke
1.30 Full Orchestra Two leading British orchestras test their musical knowledge in the quiz. Tommy Pearson chairs
2.00 The Archers (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: Elemental Tales — Gaia Four tales about human passions unleashed by primeval forces. See Choice
3.00 The Exchange: 0171-580 4444 Eddie Mair invites listeners' opinions on a topical issue
3.30 The Melting Pot Tom Jaine explores connections between culture and cooking (r)
3.45 This Sceptered Isle Anna Massey continues her narration of British history (r)
4.00 A Good Read The archaeologist Nick Aston and the childcare specialist Penelope Leach discuss three favourite paperbacks
4.30 Shop Talk Presented by Heather Payton
5.00 PM with Clare English
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 The Cheese Shop Present New series of comedy sketches, with Steve Davies, Jack Firsborough and songs by Ted Ruby
7.00 The Archers 7.15 Front Row Francine Stock assesses Gus Van Sant's remake of Hitchcock's classic thriller *Psycho*
7.45 Under One Roof by Michele Hanson (r)
8.00 True Colours: South Africa Today Allan Little investigates the current state of multicultural relations in South Africa
8.40 In Touch Presented by Peter White
9.00 Case Notes Special Tracey Logan explores how science can help infertile couples and assesses the implications for society
9.30 No Triumph, No Tragedy (r)
10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Nana Part two of Emile Zola's novel. Read by Juliet Stevenson
11.00 Late Night on 4: The Patrick and Maureen Maybe Music Experience New comedy series starring Patrick Barlow and Imelda Staunton
11.30 Talking Pictures Russell Davies interviews the veteran British director Ronald Neame
12.00 (FM) News 12.30 (FM) The Late Book: The Restraint of Beasts Gavin Muir reads part seven of Magnus Mills' first novel
12.00 (LW) Test Match Special Australia v England: Commentary from Sydney on the fifth and final day's play of the fifth Test
12.48 (FM) Shipping 1.00 (FM) As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.56am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

An unhealthy obsession with sex for sale

So guess what Santa bought television executives for Christmas? Yes, *another* year's supply of prostitutes for the larder, to be used as required to season all those television dishes that lack a bit of, well, oomph. To reassure those of you who feared there wasn't a hooker left in Britain who hadn't yet been filmed wrapping nappies around grown men's bottoms, or grassing them up to the police so that they can be re-educated in Leeds's new "Johns' School", BBC1's new docusoap, **Paddington Green**, launched straight into the ups and downs — so to speak — of Jackie McAuliffe's life as a transsexual prostitute in West London.

If television reflects something about us and our lives, then the number of hookers on television would suggest that, statistically, in the real world they must account for at least one in four women. There are so many prostitutes on television today that it's a wonder they're not already making enough money from television appearances to enable them to retire from the game altogether, with their pimps turning into theatrical agents instead ("she does a quick interview for fifty quid; a full docusoap, no rush, is 300 — OK guv?")

The producers of this series are hoping that Jackie will be one of the characters (along with Claude and Claudia Agius, an argumentative father-and-daughter team who run a scooter shop on Edgware Road, and Mr Gilbert, who runs a nearby wig shop) whom we will be getting to know much better in the weeks to come. You might say, here, "not in the biblical sense", but the evidence indicates that publicity gleaned from appearing in docusoaps invariably increases custom, even when — as in the case of Liverpool's Adelphi Hotel — the exposure made the staff at the Adelphi look about as welcoming as the Addams family. Jackie even showed us exactly where she stands when touting for business, thereby making an appearance on the *Paddington Green* series a far more reliable advertising shop window than sticking a card up in a telephone kiosk.

But the oddest thing about *Paddington Green* is that it's not a peep into an industry; it's not aiming to give you an insight into life behind the scenes at an hotel, or at an airport, or on a cruise ship, or as a clamper. Just as there are videos which show only goldfish for people who'd like a pet but can't be bothered with the fuss of scooping out the dead goldfish every two days and buying a new one, *Paddington Green* is television for people who can't be bothered to go out and pick up idle chitchat from the local shopkeepers in their own neighbourhood. It's village-green television; *EastEnders* without the bother of a script.

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

More prostitution on ITV in its new drama series, **The Vice**. Maybe one in four is an underestimate: perhaps it's more like one in two women who are on the game, which would imply that almost every male in the country is a regular punter. Pretty soon there'll be so many hookers on the box that we'll have to go out and hang around on dark street corners in order to *avoid* encountering a prostitute.

Ken Stott, who leads the cast as Inspector Pat Chappel of the Met's vice unit, is always riveting to watch, and not just because he has one of those faces like the "before" photo in plastic surgery ads. Struan Rodger is also icily magnetic as the heartless and violent pimp. The script is laced with all the usual knowing fruits of research around the backstreets of Soho, presumably to justify to the taxman the entries on the production budget for visits to massage parlours. But it's certainly not a wham-bam-thank-you-mam production. If you like your foreplay slow, then *The Vice* moves at your kind of pace. It was sort of enjoyable, but also somehow slightly unsatisfying — perhaps this was some kind of metaphor.

In BBC2's intelligent **Horizon Special — Longitude**, Patrick Malahide recreated scenes from the life of John Harrison, a Lincolnshire carpenter, and the extraordinary story of his quest to solve the technological problem of longitude and thereby to save the lives of sailors whose ships kept crashing against rocks — extraordinary because this long struggle to demystify the art of navigation, which spanned decades, and which baffled some of the world's greatest minds, and which seemed so insoluble that in 1714, Parliament offered a reward of £20,000 (equivalent to £6 million today) to whoever could find longitude at sea, seemed to involve *no prostitutes whatsoever*.

Oliver Walston, a 57-year-old cereal farmer from Cambridgeshire who claims to have been "born with a silver spoon in just about every orifice", gets a £180,000 cheque from Brussels each Christmas, which he finds daft. In **Against The Grain** (BBC2), a new four-part squint at British farming, he made a convincing case against the subsidies enshrined in the European Union's common agricultural policy, which pays farmers not to farm. While this at first seemed a cogent argument against such subsidies, it also seemed to be a powerful argument *for* a new subsidy under which EU officials would be paid *not* to draft demented new laws.

Walston doesn't dispute that many small farmers in Britain are in trouble, but turning them into "subsidy junkies" is not the solution. He wants EU subsidies to be phased out over a five-year period, after which farmers would face the same free-market rewards and menaces as people who run small shops, or small hairdressing salons, and who get no subsidy from Brussels: because while subsidies may line the farmers' wallets, the consumer gets screwed. See? I knew there just had to be a sexual angle somewhere.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (83650)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (36679)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (8976389)
9.45 The Vanessa Show (T) (5349259)
10.55 News; Weather (T) (7208863)
11.00 Real Rooms (7218230)
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (7295389)
11.55 News; Weather (T) (1411786)
12.00pm Call My Bluff (82178)
12.30 Battersea Dogs' Home (32292)
1.00 One O'Clock News; Weather (T) (39766)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (86909389)
1.40 Neighbours Harold teaches Paul the facts of life (T) (65689105)
2.05 Ironside The Chief tackles a resentful alternative theatre group following the death of an actress in suspicious circumstances (r) (7972679)
2.55 Going for a Song (8867834)
3.20 The Weather Show Stories about the weather (T) (2296785)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (5570114) **3.45** The Enchanted Lands: The Adventures of the Wishing Chair (9374037) **3.55** Hububb (6709018) **4.10** Chipmunks Go to the Movies (6534698) **4.35** The Really Wild Show (1924821) **5.00** Newsround (5761650) **5.10** See How They Run (8801105)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (136921)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (969)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (921)
7.00 Holiday Special 30th anniversary edition from Australia. Jill Dando visits venues for the Sydney Olympic Games and Kevin Woodford goes island-hopping off the Queensland coast (T) (1058)
7.30 EastEnders The Mitchell family close ranks (T) (105)
8.00 Weight of the Nation Dale Winton spearheads the BBC's Fighting Fat, Fighting Fit campaign with practical advice from the fat-buster team on losing weight without suffering the agony of dieting (T) (3747)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (8327)
9.30 Paddington Green A transsexual vice girl is forced back on the game by a backlog of fines for soliciting — but rather than pay up, she decides to invest in new clothes to pull the punters. Meanwhile, safe-cracker Jason has relationship problems (T) (52056)
10.00 The New Year Storms — A 999 Special The freak storms that greeted 1998 (T) (221871)
10.40 Crystal Balls Wry look at past prophets (T) (113650)
11.20 Seduced by Evil (1994) Premiere. Supernatural tale, starring Suzanne Somers as a reporter who interviews a mysterious nomad, unaware that he is actually a shape-shifting magician. With James B. Sikking. Directed by Tony Wharmby (T) (313308)
12.45am Death of a Cheerleader (1994) Fact-based drama about two teenage girls whose rivalry sets them on a fatal collision course. Tori Spelling and Kellie Martin star. Directed by William A Graham (T) (6234896)
2.10 Weather (9824322)
2.15 BBC News 24 (79559896)

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BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC: Breakfast Show: The Little Polar Bear (3540227) **7.05** Teletubbies (2234124) **7.30** Yogi's Treasure Hunt (2527211) **7.50** Blue Peter (3199476) **8.20** Taz-Mania (9167476) **8.40** Polka Dot Shorts (8446259) **8.50** The Little Polar Bear (8435143) **9.00** Oakie Doke (7362414) **9.10** Phil Silvers Show (6767921) **9.35** Phil Silvers Show (5152747) **10.00** Teletubbies (90389) **10.30** FILM: Monsieur Verdoux (91650) **12.30pm** Working Lunch (30834) **1.00** Oakie Doke (73870834)
1.10 The Arts and Crafts Hour Caroline Righton meets a master craftsman who draws inspiration from rivers (2795476)
2.10 Darts: World Professional Championship Ray Stubbs presents live coverage of the first-round ties from the Lakeside Country Club, Frimley Green (98302921)
5.30 Cricket: The Ashes Australia v England. Highlights (698)
6.00 The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air The family revisit their old neighbourhood, only to find it has been destroyed (r) (T) (248853)
6.25 Heartbreak High Jet puts a damper on D'espo's latest scheme (T) (696230)
7.10 The O Zone Whitney Houston performs songs from her new album and Ultra talk about releasing their latest single, while 911 take a stroll along Brighton Pier with Jayne Middlemiss (T) (642655)
7.30 From the Edge Mik Scarlett checks out facilities for disabled visitors in New York and Tanni Grey talks to disabled caravanners (T) (747)
8.00 University Challenge City University, London takes on Balliol College, Oxford (T) (5018)
8.30 Rick Stein's Seafood Odyssey New series exploring the places and flavours that have influenced the Cornish chef (T) (7853)
9.00 Morecambe and Wise The irrepressible duo perform their own version of *The Flintstones*. With special guests the Beverley Sisters and Kenny Ball's Jazz Men (r) (T) (6989)
9.28 Suspended in Time (T) (882230)



Ian Hislop takes a moment to relax during his trip across India (9.30pm)

9.30 Great Railway Journeys New series. Ian Hislop travels from Calcutta to romantic Rajasthan, via the Taj Mahal and the site of a recent nuclear bomb test (1/6) (T) (836679)
10.20 Trade Secrets Pet breeders reveal tricks of the trade (r) (T) (909765)
10.30 Newsnight Introduced by Kirsty Wark (T) (845747)
11.13 Suspended in Time (T) (386834)
11.15 Darts: World Professional Championship The second round (903495)
11.55 Weather (185327)
12.00am The Phil Silvers Show Bilko tries to break into TV (r) (59761)
12.30 Close

HTV

5.30am ITN Morning News (29940)
6.00 GMTV (6091414)
9.25 Trisha (T) (2326940)
10.25 This Morning (T) (62861259)
12.15pm HTV News and Weather (T) (9659563)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News; Weather (T) (27360)
1.00 Shortland Street (24834)
1.30 Home and Away Will saves Gypsy (T) (66259)
2.00 The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous American talk show (T) (2106969)
2.45 Dale's Supermarket Sweep The shopping quiz (T) (521679)
3.15 ITN News Headlines (T) (2286940)
3.20 HTV News (T) (2283853)
3.25 CITV: Mopatop's Shop (2273476) **3.35** Rosie and Jim (8706650) **3.50** The Wombles (9366018) **4.00** Cow and Chicken (9881872) **4.25** Mike and Angelo (7784132) **4.50** How II (9462124)
5.10 A Country Practice Tom is forced to make a decision (6380762)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News; Weather (T) (767940)
5.59 HTV Crimestoppers (745969)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (648899)
6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight (T) (953037)
6.25 WEST: HTV Weather (348105)
6.30 The West Tonight (T) (389)
7.00 Emmerdale Zak is left holding the baby (T) (6124)
7.30 Who Wants to be a Millionaire? Big-prize game show (T) (501)
8.00 The Bill Deakin and Beech keep watch on a newly released kidnapper, hoping he'll lead them straight to the £300,000 ransom he was paid (T) (1143)



Haydn Gwynne stars as a new member of the medical team (9pm)

9.00 Peak Practice The rural drama returns for a new series. With Gary Mavers, Adrian Lukis and Haydn Gwynne (1/13) (T) (8679)
10.00 ITN News; Weather (T) (26143)
10.30 HTV News and Weather (T) (160698)
10.40 Full Frontal in Flip Flops A documentary looking at British nudists (T) (953105)
11.40 The China Syndrome (1979) The controller of a nuclear power plant discovers a potentially disastrous operational flaw — but refuses to report it. Thriller, starring Jane Fonda. Directed by James Bridges (T) (92169327)
2.00am The Haunted Fishtank Ed Hall reveiws the week's television (18612)
2.30 Highlander An Immortal terrorist stalks Richie, so MacLeod trains him in self-defence (r) (8357525)
3.25 Wish You Were Here? France and Benidorm (r) (T) (83194380)
3.55 Football Extra Football League highlights (r) (8444612)
4.50 ITV Nightscreen Behind the scenes of ITV programmes (6682631)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.20-12.30pm Central News; Weather (6275211)
1.00 Headliners (24834)
1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (9204766)
2.15-2.45 Home and Away (522308)
3.20-3.25 Central News (2283853)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (6380762)
6.30-7.00 Central News; Weather (389)
10.30-10.40 Central News; Weather (160698)
3.45am Football Extra (683709)
4.45 Central Jobfinder '99 (1077877)
5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (4519877)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.15-12.27pm Westcountry News; Weather (9659563)
12.27-12.30 Illuminations (6283230)
1.00 Emmerdale (24834)
1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (9204766)
2.15-2.45 Home and Away (522308)
3.20-3.25 Westcountry News; Weather (2283853)
5.08 Birthday People (8880360)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (6380762)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (42679)
10.30-10.40 Westcountry News; Weather (160698)

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As HTV West except:
12.15-12.30pm Meridian News; Weather (9659563)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away;
6.00 Meridian Tonight (227)
6.30-7.00 Grass Roots Special (389)
10.30-10.40 Meridian News; Weather (160698)
5.00-5.30am Freescreen (57544)

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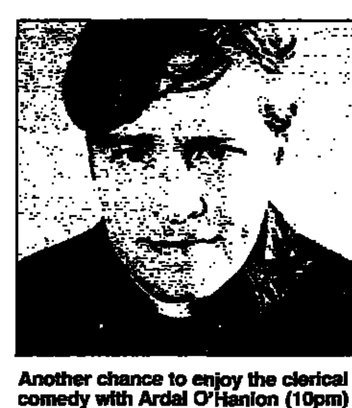
As HTV West except:
12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (6261016)
12.20-12.30 Anglia News and Weather (6275211)
1.00-1.35 Up Shot! (1529834)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street;
6.23 Anglia Weather (349834)
6.25-7.00 Anglia News (953037)
10.29 Anglia Air Watch (265834)
10.30-10.40 Anglia News and Weather (160698)

[illegible]

Starts: **5.55am Sesame Street** (r) (45229360) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (47299414) **9.00 The Cosby Show** (r) (T) (16850360) **9.30 FILM: Hello Dolly** (T) (52158766) **12.05pm Here's One I Made Earlier** (T) (36393209) **12.30 Sesame Street** (38872698) **1.00 Planed Plant** (T) (54636872) **1.00 Brynseren** (T) (54636872) **1.15 Clwc** (54631327) **1.30 FILM: The Thief of Bagdad** (T) (99239679) **3.30 Hampton Court Palace** (T) (56552105) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One Highlights** (T) (56564940) **4.30 Ricki Lake** (T) (56560124) **5.00 Planed Plant** (87282394) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (56551476) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (T) (69430766) **6.10 Heno** (T) (95132563) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (75704650) **7.30 Newyddion** (T) (56561853) **8.00 Y Sioe Gelf** (T) (81882358) **8.30 Pengelli** (T) (75704605) **9.00 Cutting Edge** (r) (T) (61570358) **10.00 Brookside** (T) (54329766) **10.35 Mayday** (1/4) (T) (36616056) **11.35 Body Story** (5/5) (T) (69037230) **12.05am The Real Holiday Show** (4/8) (T) (57491051) **12.35 The Mini Job: The Making of the Italian Job** (T) (66024506) **1.05 The Mini Man** (T) (71473273) **2.05 The Mini Years** (T) (21510235) **2.35 Diwedd**

CHANNEL 4

5.55am Sesame Street (r) (4081872)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (29389)
9.00 The Cosby Show (r) (T) (5718227)
9.35 Phone Call from a Stranger (1952) Comedy drama, with Bette Davis. Jean Negulesco directs (T) (44482056)
11.15 Earthscape (r) (6791698)
11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier (r) (T) (5230)
12.00 Sesame Street (23056)
12.30pm Bewitched (T) (58230)
1.00 Pet Rescue (r) (T) (22476)
1.30 Roots to Success (38869871)
1.50 The Fallen Idol (1948) Crime melodrama about an ambassador's son who idolises a servant accused of murder. Ralph Richardson stars. Directed by Carol Reed (T) (61813921)
3.30 Hampton Court Palace (T) (495)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One Highlights (r) (T) (230)
4.30 Countdown (T) (1918360)
4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (4036018)
5.30 Pet Rescue An iguana visits (T) (766)
6.00 King of the Hill (r) (T) (679)
6.30 Home Improvement New series. While Tim is away at sea, Jill finds herself forced to deal with Brad's developing interest in girls. DIY comedy, starring Tim Allen and Patricia Richardson (T) (259)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (337360)
7.55 Cuban Faces The artist Luis Gomez discusses his work (2/5) (T) (268940)
8.00 Brookside (T) (3414)
8.30 Classic Aircraft Advances in bomber design (3/8) (T) (2921)
9.00 Cutting Edge Bizarre happenings behind the scenes of *The Sport*'s editorial office (r) (T) (9921)



Another chance to enjoy the clerical comedy with Ardal O'Hanlon (10pm)

10.00 Father Ted The hapless cleric makes a bid for stardom (1/6) (r) (T) (24785)
10.30 Bob and Margaret Bob comes to terms with his mortality (T) (32655)
11.00 Trial and Error Doubts surrounding a man's murder conviction (T) (32853)
12.00 Stories of Seduction (1990) Three stories based on tales by Mary McCarthy, Dorothy Parker and Ernest Hemingway. Directed by Frederic Raphael, Ken Russell, Tony Richardson (100693)
1.35am Double Entente *Tale of lesbian allure about a high-flying businesswoman who yields to temptation* (r) (T) (5925457)
1.50 The Pleasure Seekers (1964) Three American women throw caution to the wind and go in search of the men of their dreams. With Ann-Margaret. Directed by Jean Negulesco (T) (284186)
3.50 Whispers A deaf psychic's gift becomes a nightmare (r) (83854728)
4.15 Lady Godiva Rides Again (1951) A humble beauty contest winner sets out on the road to stardom, but soon discovers the seamier side of showbusiness. With Diana Dors and Pauline Stroud. Directed by Frank Launder (T) (649815)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport Current events (7104969)
7.00 WideWorld Part eight. The Victorian fashion for family days at the seaside (r) (T) (9292872)
7.30 Milkshake! (9207655)
7.35 Wimzie's House (r) (9923785)
8.00 Havakazoo (r) (1363476)
8.30 Dappledown Farm (1362747)
9.00 Weather Front (r) (1386327)
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (6715921)
10.20 Sunset Beach Cole demands the truth (T) (2320969)
11.10 Leeza (r) (2200495)
12.00pm 5 News at Noon (T) (1366563)
12.30 Family Affairs Cat spies Annie leaving the house (r) (T) (9132292)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Sheila taunts Maggie (T) (9291143)
1.30 The Roseanne Show With Richard Simmons; 5 News Update (9131563)
2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (6552563)
2.30 Good Afternoon (4751327)
3.30 A Brother's Promise: The Dan Jansen Story (TVM 1996) Premiere. True-life story of the 1994 Olympic gold medallist who promised his dying sister he would win the speed skating event for her. Sporting biopic, starring Matt Kessler. Directed by Bill Corcoran (T) (9835018)
5.20 Sunset Beach Shown earlier; (r) (T) 5 News Update (6384747)
6.00 100 Per Cent Computer-generated quiz (5413872)
6.30 Family Affairs Annie tells Chris they're through (T) (5404124)
7.00 5 News; Weather (T) (6563679)



The majestic creatures which have inspired Dr Joyce Poole (7.30pm)

7.30 Champions of the Wild Profile of lifelong elephant researcher Dr Joyce Poole; (T) 5 News Update (5400308)
8.00 Survivor How a 17-year-old girl survived a plane crash in the heart of the Peruvian jungle (r) (T) 5 News Update (5731476)
9.00 Sweet Temptation (TVM 1996) A teenager plays a dangerous game by spending the night in the arms of her mother's young boyfriend, leading to tragic consequences for all concerned. Erotic drama, starring Beverly D'Angelo, Rob Estes and Ted Shackleford. Directed by Ron Lagomarsino (T) (12503360)
10.50 Two New series. Mystery thriller, starring Michael Easton as a professor whose life is torn apart by a psychopathic twin brother bent on destroying him (4524921)
11.45 The Jack Docherty Show Chat and music (1977143)
12.25am Live and Dangerous John Emburey reviews the fifth Ashes Test (52611254)
3.45 Asian Football Show Weekly round-up (7777457)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H Bobby accuses Rick of attempted rape and Coleen is caught the worse for drink (3229544)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (9207439)

PAY TV: SATELLITE, CABLE AND DIGITAL

● For further listings see Saturday's *Vision*

SKY 1

7.00am Count Duckula (89785) **7.30** Chris Evans (82414) **8.30** Hollywood Squares (61230) **9.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (55369) **10.00** Oprah Winfrey (64476) **11.00** Guilty! (77940) **12.00pm** Jenny Jones (88037) **1.00** Mad About You (88058) **1.30** Jeopardy (99501) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (42766) **3.00** Jenny Jones (96835) **4.00** Guilty! (87292) **5.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (6389) **6.00** Married — With Children (3921) **6.30** Dream Team (7501) **7.00** Simpsons (7018) **7.30** Simpsons (3785) **8.00** Rescue Medics (6768) **8.30** Coppers (8501) **9.00** World's Wildest Police Videos (18650) **10.00** Greece Uncovered (28037) **11.00** Dream Team (86921) **11.30** Earth: Final Conflict (50056) **12.30am** Highlander (18148) **1.30** Long Play (5262544)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels.
To view any film telephone 0990 800888
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 26) **Face/Off (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60) **Home Alone 3 (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59) **George of the Jungle (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58) **Fathers' Day (1997)**

FILMFOUR

8.00pm Boudou Saved from Drowning (1932) (7548563) **8.00 Brassed Off (1996)** (7550308) **10.00 The Crow (1994)** (9979921) **12.00am Le Petit Soldat (1960)** (5195885) **1.35 Nell (1994)** (2228506) **3.30 Blue Sky (1994)** (8272273)

SKY PREMIER

6.00am Picture Perfect (1996) (82203143) **7.45 Moby Dick (1997)** (52258230) **10.15 The Long Walk Home (1989)** (847308) **12.15pm** The Directors: Ron Howard (840501) **1.15** Hollywood Buzz (9177389) **1.30 The Fifth Element (1997)** (73607389) **3.55 Picture Perfect (1996)** (431872) **5.30 Moby Dick (1997)** (434037) **8.00 The Fifth Element (1997)** (25940) **10.00 Last Man Standing (1996)** (276969) **11.45 Another 48 Hours (1990)** (962230) **1.20am Blood and Wine (1996)** (996070) **3.05 Carriers (1997)** (208524) **4.35** The Directors: Ron Howard (5976167)

SKY MOVIEMAX

5.00am Damnation Alley (1977) (79501) **7.00 Three Women (1977)** (70037) **9.00 Reckless Nights (1997)** (46582) **11.00 For Hope (1996)** (39414) **1.00pm The Kid (1997)** (57698) **3.00 Reckless Nights (1997)** (54872) **5.00 Three Women (1977)** (55879) **7.00 The Kid (1997)** (61389) **9.00 Ratified (1996)** (33968) **11.00 Fast Money (1995)** (453211) **12.35am The Fiance (1997)** (545902) **2.10 Fandango (1984)** (8125308) **3.40 See No Evil, Hear No Evil (1989)** (632490)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm 3.10 to Yuma (1957) (8285476) **6.00 Buck Privates Come Home (1947)** (7663389) **8.00 The Strange Affair of Uncle Harry (1945)** (7658834) **10.00** 100 Years — 100 Movies: Against the Grain (8894389) **10.55 Dirty Mary, Crazy Larry (1974)** (75044582) **12.30am The Eighth Day (1996)** (3582728) **2.30 The Two-Headed Spy (1958)** (9494032) **4.05 Days of Glory (1944)** (3181089)

TNT

8.00pm 36 Hours (1964) (36088834) **11.15 The Asphalt Jungle (1950)** (77708940) **1.30am The Biggest Bundle of Them All (1968)** (87368964) **3.30 The Petrified Forest (1936)** (84160693)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre **7.15** V-Max **7.45** H2O **8.15** Sports Centre **8.30** Racing News **9.00** Aerobics **9.30** You're On! **10.00** League Review **11.00** Max Power **12.00pm** Aerobics **12.30** V-Max **1.00** FA Cup **2.30** Spanish Football **4.30** World Windsurfing **5.00** Wrestling **6.00** Sports Centre **6.30** Inside Scottish Football **7.30** Fastrax **8.00** Live: Greyhound Racing **10.00** Sports Centre **10.15** You're On! **10.45** Inside Scottish Football **11.45** Sports Centre **12.00am** You're On! **12.30** Equestrianism **2.30** Sports Centre **2.45** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics **7.30** Sports Centre **7.45** Racing **8.15** Windsurfing **8.45** Sports Centre **9.00** Live Cricket **4.00pm** Cricket **6.30** Cricket **11.00** Fastrax **11.30** Live Cricket

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00pm Wrestling **1.00** Fish TV **2.00** Dickie Davies' Sporting Heroes **3.00** Total Sport **3.30** World Motor Sport **6.30** Sports Unlimited **7.30** Fish TV **8.00** Equestrianism **10.00** Boxing Superbouts **11.00** Olympic Series: Road to Nagano **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Rally **8.00** Live Cross-Country Skiing **9.00** Live Alpine Skiing **10.15** Live Cross-Country Skiing **11.45** Live Alpine Skiing **1.00pm** Live Ski-Jumping **2.30** Cross-Country Skiing **4.30** Alpine Skiing **5.30** Ski-Jumping **7.00** Boxing **9.30** Rally *10.00 Football 12.00am Rally 12.30 Close*

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.30** The House of Eliott **10.30** Angels **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Juliet Bravo **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **4.30** Angels **5.00** All Creatures Great and Small **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** May to December **7.40** It Ain't Half Hot, Mum **8.20** Yes, Minister **9.00** Red Dwarf IV **9.40** This Life **10.35** NYPD Blue **11.40** The Bill **12.40am** Spender **1.40** Backup **2.35** Live at Jongleurs **3.00** Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Within These Walls **7.00** On the Buses **7.30** The Fenn Street Gang **8.00** That's My Boy **8.30** Second Thoughts **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Emmerdale Farm **10.00** thirtysomething **11.00** Hawaii Five-O **12.00pm** Classic Coronation Street **12.30** Emmerdale Farm **1.00** Nearest and Dearest **1.30** Watching **2.00** thirtysomething **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** The Saint **5.00** Hawaii Five-O **6.00** Emmerdale Farm **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** Mission: Impossible **8.00** Love Boat **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** The Brian Conley Show **10.00** Jokers Wild **10.30** Hogan's Heroes **11.00** Men and Motors

CARLTON SELECT [CABLE]

5.00pm What's Cooking? **5.30** Gridlock **6.00** London Bridge **6.30** Rising Damp **7.00** Boon **8.00** Motorway **8.30** Real Life Stories **9.00** The Upper Hand **9.30** Flying Start **10.00** Frank Stubbs Promotes **11.00** Hill Street Blues **12.00am** Rising Damp **12.30** Gridlock **1.00** Close

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Bear in the Big Blue House **6.25** Classic Toons **6.35** Gummi Bears **7.00** Classic Toons **7.10** Aladdin **7.35** Timon and Pumbaa **8.00** 101 Dalmatians **8.25** Classic Toons **8.30** Hercules **9.00** Art Attack **9.15** Ned's Newt **9.30** Recess **9.45** Pepper Ann **10.00** Boy Meets World **10.30** Smart Guy **11.00** Teen Angel **11.30** Flash Forward **12.00pm** Doug **12.30** Dinosaurs **1.00** FILM: Enid Blyton's Sea of Adventure **2.20** Classic Toons **2.30** New Winnie the Pooh **3.00** Little Mermaid **3.30** Timon and Pumbaa **3.45** 101 Dalmatians **4.10** Hercules **4.40** Art Attack **5.00** Smart Guy **5.30** Recess **5.45** Pepper Ann **6.00** Wonder Years **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00** Honey I Shrunk the Kids **7.50** Classic Toons **8.00** FILM: Flash (1998) **9.30** Home Improvement **10.00** Dinosaurs **10.30** Wonder Years **11.00** Dr Quinn **12.00am** Close



Ewan McGregor and Tara Fitzgerald star in Mark Herman's bittersweet comedy drama *Brassed Off* (FilmFour, 8pm)

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Power Rangers Turbo **7.00** Mortal Kombat **7.25** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.30** Donkey Kong Country **8.00** Goosebumps **8.25** Sam and Max **8.35** Spiderman **9.00** X-Men **9.25** Fantastic Four **9.50** The Incredible Hulk **10.15** Casper **10.30** Oggy and the Cockroaches **10.55** The Mouse and the Monster **11.05** Eek! Stravaganza **11.30** Life with Louie **11.55** Home to Rent **12.05pm** Sam and Max **12.30** Donkey Kong Country **1.00** Mowgli: The New Adventures of Jungle Book **1.25** Ace Ventura **1.50** Spiderman **2.15** X-Men **2.40** Fantastic Four **3.05** Incredible Hulk **3.30** Roy and Lisa's Big Ride **3.35** Mortal Kombat **4.00** Spiderman **4.25** Mowgli: The New Adventures of Jungle Book **4.50** Home to Rent **5.00** Goosebumps **5.25** Eerie Indiana **5.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **5.55** Donkey Kong Country **6.25** Sam and Max **6.50** Eek! Stravaganza **7.00** Close

NICKELODEON

7.00am The Secret World of Alex Mack **1.30pm** The Journey of Allen Strange **2.00** *The Secret World of Alex Mack* **2.30** *Kenan and Kel* **3.00** Clarissa Explains it All **3.30** Kablam! **4.00** Hey Arnold! **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan and Kel **6.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **6.30** The Journey of Allen Strange **7.00** Close

TROUBLE

7.00am USA High **8.00** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **8.30** Hang Time **9.00** Tempestt **10.00** Hollyoaks **10.30** Echo Point **11.00** Sweet Valley High **11.30** California Dreams **12.00pm** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **12.30** In the House **1.00** Tempestt **2.00** Hollyoaks **2.30** Echo Point **3.00** Ready or Not **3.30** City Guys **4.00** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **4.30** In the House **5.00** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **5.30** Sweet Valley High **6.00** Hang Time **6.30** Rush **6.45** Bangs **7.00** USA High

CHALLENGE TV

5.00pm The Games Room **5.15** Crosswits **5.45** The Games Room **6.00** Family Fortunes **6.30** The Games Room **6.45** Catchphrase **7.15** The Games Room **7.25** 100 Per Cent **7.55** The Crystal Maze **9.00** The Games Room **9.15** Strike it Lucky **9.45** The Games Room **10.00** Endurance UK **10.30** The Cooler **11.00** Carnal Knowledge **12.00am** Strike it Lucky **12.30** Split Second **1.00** 3-2-1 **2.00** Love at First Sight **2.30** Studs **3.00** Endurance UK **3.30** Blockbusters **4.00** Fifteen-to-One **4.30** Don't Drink the Water **5.00** Screenshop

BRAVO

8.00pm The A-Team **9.00** LAPD **9.30** Cops **10.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **10.30** Scary Sex **11.00** FILM: Rollerball (1975) **1.15am** Sex Bytes **1.45** Scary Sex **2.15** Extreme Championship Wrestling **2.45** Short **3.00** FILM: The Fly II (1989) **5.00** LAPD **5.30** Bushido **6.00** Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Clueless **7.30** Desmond's **8.00** Roseanne **8.30** Just Shoot Me **9.00** Cybill **9.30** Seinfeld **10.00** Frasier **10.30** Cheers **11.00** Festival of Fun I **11.30** The Larry Sanders Show **12.00am** Late Night with David Letterman **1.00** Taxi **1.30** The Critic **2.00** Dr Katz **2.30** Soap **3.00** Wings **3.30** Nightstand **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY

7.30am Bloomberg Information Television **8.00** Sightings **9.00** Buck Rogers in the 25th Century **10.00** Quantum Leap **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** New Alfred Hitchcock **12.00pm** The Twilight Zone **12.30** Tales of the Unexpected **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Amazing Stories **2.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **3.00** Buck Rogers in the 25th Century **4.00** The Incredible Hulk **5.00** Sightings **6.00** Time Trax **7.00** Quantum Leap **8.00** V **9.00** Lexx **10.00** FILM: Witchboard (1987) **11.55** Sci-Focus **12.00am** Dark Skies **1.00** FILM: Dracula's Widow (1988) **2.40** Sci-Focus **3.00** The Twilight Zone **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Today's Gourmet **6.30** Graham Kerr **7.00** Craftwise **7.30** The Painted House **8.00** Wedding Story **8.30** A Baby Story **9.00** Simply Painting **9.25** The Home and Leisure House **9.30** Garden Rescue **10.00** Garden Doctors **10.30** Cookabout with Greg and Max **11.00** Two's Country — Get Stuck In **11.30** Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **12.00pm** Australia's Strangest Home Improvements **12.30** Doing It Up **1.00** Our House **1.30** Hometime **2.00** Wood Wizard **2.30** Home Again with Bob Vila **3.00** This Old House with Steve and Norm **3.30** Go Fishing

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **4.30** Walker's World **5.00** Connections 2 by James Burke **5.30** Jurassica **6.00** Animal Doctor **6.30** Hunters. Tooth and Claw **7.30** Beyond 2000 **8.00** Great Escapes **8.30** Quantum. Southern Ocean Survival **9.00** Trailblazers **10.00** Antarctica **11.00** Firepower 2000 **12.00am** Titanic Discovered **1.00** Connections 2 by James Burke **1.30** Ancient Warriors **2.00** Close

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00pm Going Wild With Jeff Corwin: Los Angeles **12.30** Wild at Heart **1.00** Nature Watch with Julian Pettifer **1.30** Australia Wild **2.00** Breed All About it **2.30** Human/Nature **3.30** Harry's Practice **4.00** Jack Hanna's Zoo Life **4.30** Animal Doctor **5.00** Pet Rescue **5.30** Australia Wild **6.00** The New Adventures of Black Beauty **6.30** Lassie **7.00** Rediscovery of the World: New Zealand **8.00** Animal Doctor **8.30** Totally Australia: A Fresh View **9.30** Emergency Vets **10.00** The Last Paradises: Kenha **10.30** Animal Detectives **11.00** All-Bird TV **11.30** Emergency Vets **12.00am** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Nepal. Life Among the Tigers **7.30** Among the Baboons **8.00** Nature's Bite: Serpent's Delight **8.30** Nature's Bite: Snakebite! **9.00** Nature's Bite: Piranha! **9.30** Nature's Bite. Bear Attack **10.00** Nature's Bite. Realm of the Alligator **11.00** Nature's Bite: Teeth of Death **12.00am** The Shark Files. African Shark Safari

HISTORY

4.00pm The World at War: Distant War **5.00** The Ocean Liners **6.00** Mummies: Land of the Pharaohs **7.00** Biography: Julius Caesar

CARLTON FOOD [CABLE]

9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Food for Thought **10.00** The Green Gourmet **10.30** Worrall Thompson Cooks **11.00** What's Cooking? **11.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **12.00pm** Food Network Daily **12.30** Surprise Chefs **1.00** *Food for Thought* **1.30** Thoroughly Modern British **2.00** Chez Bruno **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Winter Nosh **3.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **4.00** Rustie's Real Cooks **4.30** Turner's Tour of Hong Kong **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny and Crew **6.20** Philbert the Frog **6.30** Johnson and Friends **6.45** Tiny Tales **6.50** Polka Dot Shorts **7.00** Practical Parenting **7.05** Professor Bubble **7.30** Caillou **7.35** Bug Alert **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.30** Tiny Tales **8.35** Tiny and Crew **8.50** Practical Parenting **9.00** Diet Show **9.30** The Roseanne Show **10.00** The Jerry Springer Show **10.50** Maury Povich **11.40** Brookside **12.10pm** Animal Rescue **12.40** Rescue 911 **1.10** Special Babies **1.40** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **2.10** LA Law **3.10** The Jerry Springer Show **4.00** Michael Cole **4.50** Rolanda **5.40** Ready, Steady, Cook **6.15** The Jerry Springer Show **7.05** Rescue 911 **7.35** Animal Rescue **8.00** Murder Call **9.00** FILM: Choices of the Heart (1983) **11.00** Sex Life Down Under **12.00am** Close

ZEE TV

5.30am Music Time **6.00** Aap Ki Farmaish **6.30** Usha Uthap Show **7.00** Faith **7.30** Daily News **8.00** Shotgun Show **8.30** Sailaab **9.00** Himalaya's Hast **10.00** Dhoop Mein Saw **11.00** Khana Khazana **11.30** Parampara **12.00pm** FILM: Bengali Movie: Parbhat Priya **3.00** Zee Bangla **3.30** Cine Magic **4.00** Campus **4.30** Zee Top 10 **5.30** Aashirwad **6.00** Liberty 1-10 **6.30** Super 7 Mugabra **7.30** Chalo Cinema **8.00** News Bulletin **8.30** Daraar **9.00** Do Aur Do Paanch **9.30** Zanjeeren **10.30** The X Zone **12.00am** News Bulletin **12.30** Pakistan Business Week **1.00** Zee Bangla **1.30** Raahat **2.00** FILM: Urdu Movie: Badal Aur Bijlee **4.30** Lolly-Pop

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Owens comes good at the last for San Francisco 49ers

SPORT

TENNIS 42
Henman roars back into action in Doha



Wiseman's departure signals change

FA prepares for radical restructuring

By Matt Dickinson

THERE was so much spin-doctored talk of "fresh dawns" and "visions for the millennium" in Lancaster Gate yesterday that it might have been a press conference for new Labour. This hailing of a glorious age, though, came from the modernising vanguard of the Football Association, who barely gave Keith Wiseman time to head back to Southampton and obscurity before they launched their reformist agenda.

Wiseman resigned as chairman of the FA at 1.10pm, finally accepting that he had been outflanked by his opponents who regarded him as an ineffectual leader on the domestic, never mind the world, stage. His decision to step down was unanimously accepted by the 91-member FA Council, who will find that they are the next targets for the modernisers after the culling of Wiseman and Graham Kelly, the former chief executive.

Less than four hours after Wiseman's resignation, those who would succeed him were gathered in a hotel describing how the new leader must be a man of integrity and vision if the FA is to be transformed from its cumbersome committee structure into a streamlined business befitting its multimillion-pound turnover.

A working party is already on the verge of publishing a report as to how the full council, with an average age of 64, can be whittled down into an effective unit of a dozen or so. The new chairman may be paid for the first time in the FA's 135-year history.

Who that will be is a question that will not be answered until a vote by the FA Council in June, thereby guaranteeing more than five months of political manoeuvering. Geoff Thompson, the vice-chairman, will head the FA until the summer and may now prove the front-runner to succeed Wiseman. As secretary of the Sheffield and Hallamshire County FA, Thompson's support is based in the shires, which still hold 60 per cent of the seats on the full council.

With their influence under increasing threat from the professional game — as represented by Dave Richards, chairman of Sheffield Wednesday, David Sheepshanks, chairman of Ipswich Town, and David Dein, vice-chairman of Arsenal — the counties may engineer Thompson in as chairman to ensure that they have a proper say in the radical changes that are inevitable.

Sheepshanks, by far the most likely alternative to Thompson, will need to use all his Old Etonian charm over the next five months to convince them that he is acting in their best interests rather than those of the leading clubs.

Blatter's new bid 41
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Who will succeed Kelly as chief executive may take even longer to determine. The position will be advertised this week, but Thompson accepted yesterday that it is unlikely that an appointment will be made before the chairmanship is resolved in June.

Whoever becomes chairman and chief executive, they will preside over a revolution at the FA. "Today represents the beginning of a new dawn for the FA," Sheepshanks said, his thoughts echoed by Thompson. "If we can't move in the right direction we will die," Thompson said. "We may have had a hundred or more years of operating on the same lines, but we are now moving into a new millennium and need to move forward with a more businesslike approach.

"The new chairman must have integrity, leadership and vision. He must also have the ability to convince the present members of the council that there is going to be a change." That may be a bit like persuading turkeys to vote for Christmas, but Kelly and Wiseman will testify that the new movers and shakers at the FA are ruthless in their methods.

The new chairman will also, according to Thompson, have "to build bridges with Fifa, Uefa and the Home Counties" after the cash-for-votes controversy that cost Wiseman and Kelly their jobs. "It was a very grave error of judgment by both of them," Thompson said of the unauthorised £4.2 million payment to the FA of Wales.

At the full council meeting yesterday, Wiseman spoke persuasively in his own defence, as should be expected from a solicitor, for 65 minutes. Once the debate was opened to the floor, however, the counter-arguments came thick and fast, with Thompson, Dein and Sheepshanks among the dozen councillors who spoke against the departing chairman.

"I have achieved my objective in providing the council with a full explanation of the events which have been the subject of so much publicity," Wiseman said. "I am grateful that they felt able to unanimously record that in accepting my resignation, they wished to make it clear that no aspersions were cast on my integrity or honesty. That means a great deal to me."

With that, Wiseman left and the race to succeed him began. The only declared candidate is Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, whose outspokenness has already ensured the failure of his campaign. "Many of the comments I have seen attributed to him have been a masterpiece of demotivation of FA staff," Frank Pattison, a moderniser from the Durham FA, said.



Wiseman heads back to Southampton after resigning as chairman of the Football Association yesterday

No ICC cash to help umpire system

By Our Sports Staff

THE International Cricket Council (ICC) is refusing to give financial backing to any programme aimed at improving the third umpire system.

The problem was highlighted during the final Ashes Test between Australia and England at Sydney yesterday when Steve Taufel, the third umpire, failed to give Michael Slater, the Australia opener, run out when he appeared to be short of his ground. Slater, on 35 at the time, went on to make 123.

The ICC, however, reject suggestions that it should pump money into a scheme to set up four fixed cameras level with the wickets at each side of the ground.

"We're not looking to fund it at this stage," Clive Hitchcock, the ICC cricket operations manager, said. "There's a huge cost involved. Some countries are going down that road and providing square angle cameras at each end.

"It's something that we're working on because some countries provide better facilities than others. South Africa have square-on cameras but their project has received private sponsorship. We're looking to see if we can make it standard across the board. But it is the responsibility of the home board to provide camera angles in liaison with the host broadcaster."

Television replays appeared to confirm that Slater was short of his crease after the stumps were broken by Dean Headley's direct hit from deep mid-on. He was given not out because Taufel did not have the benefit of a square-on camera but even the Australian opener believes it is time for more cameras to be used to stop similar controversies.

"If you're going to have the third umpire, then get the cameras in place so it's conclusive," Slater said. "If there's a camera on the other side of the ground square-on, there's no doubt you would know one way or the other. The third umpire can only make a judgment on what he sees at the time."

Hitchcock added: "When the third umpire makes his decision, he must be 100 per cent sure that the batsman is out and I'm sure the he applied that in Salter's case."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1606

ACROSS
7 Being always 'ill' (12)
9 Intuitive sympathy (7)
10 Services chaplain (5)
11 Ring: a croquet target (4)
12 Always given similar role (8)
15 Where Drake played bowls (1588) (8)
17 Free ride (4)
19 Indian police baton (5)
21 In summary (7)
22 Learn to master (3,3,4,2)

DOWN
1 Paris, Drumroll, Rhenish for example (8)
2 Two-dot stop (5)
3 Fond of conversation (6)
4 Tiny offcut: fragment, extract (7)
5 Raised: sounds like staple food (4)
6 (Hard struggle) to cause weariness, damage (4,3,4)
8 Island chain (11)
13 Cartoon maker (8)
14 This evening (7)
16 Prize (6)
18 A wren; a spinning frame (5)
20 Carry, wield (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1605
ACROSS: 1 Army 3 Frame-up 8 Cantata 9 Sibyl 10 Sprat 11 Hampden 13 Diaeresis 17 Layette 19 Ionic 20 Train 22 Gunwale 23 Hot seat 24 Term
DOWN: 1 Access 2 Man Friday 3 Featherweight 4 Assam 5 Ebb 6 Pylons 7 Tantra 12 Disengage 14 Skinny 15 Flitch 16 Scream 18 Tense 21 Ant

Power vacuum that leaves England looking isolated

Rob Hughes says upheavals have left the FA split and devoid of influence on the international stage

The removal of Keith St John Wiseman from the Football Association, the first chairman to be forced out of office in the organisation's 135-year history, is being presented as an act of unification. Interesting. We are told that Wiseman's resignation must imply no aspersion of his honesty or integrity.

Now, after the resignation last month of the chief executive, Graham Kelly, Lancaster Gate is shorn of its two senior executives. And no one is to blame, except the media. They, in Wiseman's parting words, "wildly and wholly inaccurately" reported what was going on behind the scenes.

In truth, Wiseman's inept scheming has left a legacy of an English game lacerated with division, with Glenn Hoddle vulnerable as national coach. There is virtually open warfare between the men of commerce of the FA Carling Premiership clubs, whose intolerance of rule by amateurs is well documented.

They, and indeed their representatives within the FA, are more intent on the stock market fluctuations of the share price of their clubs than the wider duty Lancaster Gate must have for football at large. The Premiership clubs are no more likely to give the breath of life to those one rung beneath them than countenance a share of of football's ever-increasing revenues being spent to insure the welfare of a game played by millions on sports grounds and parks.

As if that is not enough. There is also the internecine fighting even within the FA Executive. The maverick Chelsea chairman, Ken Bates, has been speaking for weeks of his willingness to sweep away sleaze and the archaic structures within the FA. He fell silent yesterday. Temporarily, no doubt. But David Sheepshanks, the chairman of Ipswich, did his best in a supporting role to speak of unity and a new determination, to drive the national game forward.

One almost immediate dilemma is how those temporarily charged with leadership can restore respect for the word of the FA, specifically among the 24 executive members of Fifa, the world governing body. Those members hold the votes for the World Cup in 2006, although if the Fifa president, Sepp Blatter, gets his way there will be biennial World Cups, and with so few countries able to cope with the bloated 64-game finals, England may have less to worry about than we ever dreamt.

It was the misguided efforts of Wiseman, and the limp acquiescence to his methods by Kelly, that brought the pair down. Wiseman, correct in believing that England crucially lacked standing and influence on international committees, made unauthorised payments to the FA of Wales in what he saw as an attempt to to get their help in gaining a seat on the Fifa executive. It would be fascinating to hear the response of some members when they, knowing precisely the truth, receive deputations from Lancaster Gate attempting to persuade them that the word of an English Football Association chairman can, from now on, be trusted without hesitation.

"Those of us who hold temporary responsiblity," said David Davies who has replaced Kelly until a successor is found, "know what has to be done and won't be found wanting."

Words are Davies' forte. So is presentation. The Government may be leaking spin doctors, the FA is promoting them. Davies was educated at Sheffield University, and his "temporary" chairman, the Sheffield lawyer, Geoff Thompson, will not be found wanting in terms of directness or boldness. Thompson, indeed, might well have been the FA Council's first choice when they voted for Wiseman. He is a man of the County FA structures, a barrister, a wicketkeeper of no mean repute, a man who will neither duck the bouncers nor drop what he is entrusted to hold.



Bates: hat in the ring

Nevertheless, the fact that the FA, in its usual unwieldy manner, will not select a chairman until June, leaves something of a void for the first six months of a crucial year for canvassing for World Cup 2006.

"We have today closed a chapter, a turbulent and personally painful one to all involved," asserted Davies . It is not closed, for many who care deeply about the honour, as well as the profit-making of England's expanding game.

This has to be a new beginning. Lancaster Gate has never been a place for clean or concise decision-making. Whoever emerges in charge will have a deuce of a job restoring the confidence of the public at home and winning a cut-throat battle for credibility abroad.

David Dein, the Arsenal vice-chairman, who knows a little more than most about operating in the corridors of power promised: "It's onwards and upwards now."

Whether his own hat was in the ring for a share of that leadership he didn't say. He was onwards and upwards to Preston, where his team were competiting in the oldest and most glorious contest of them all, the Football Association Challenge Cup.